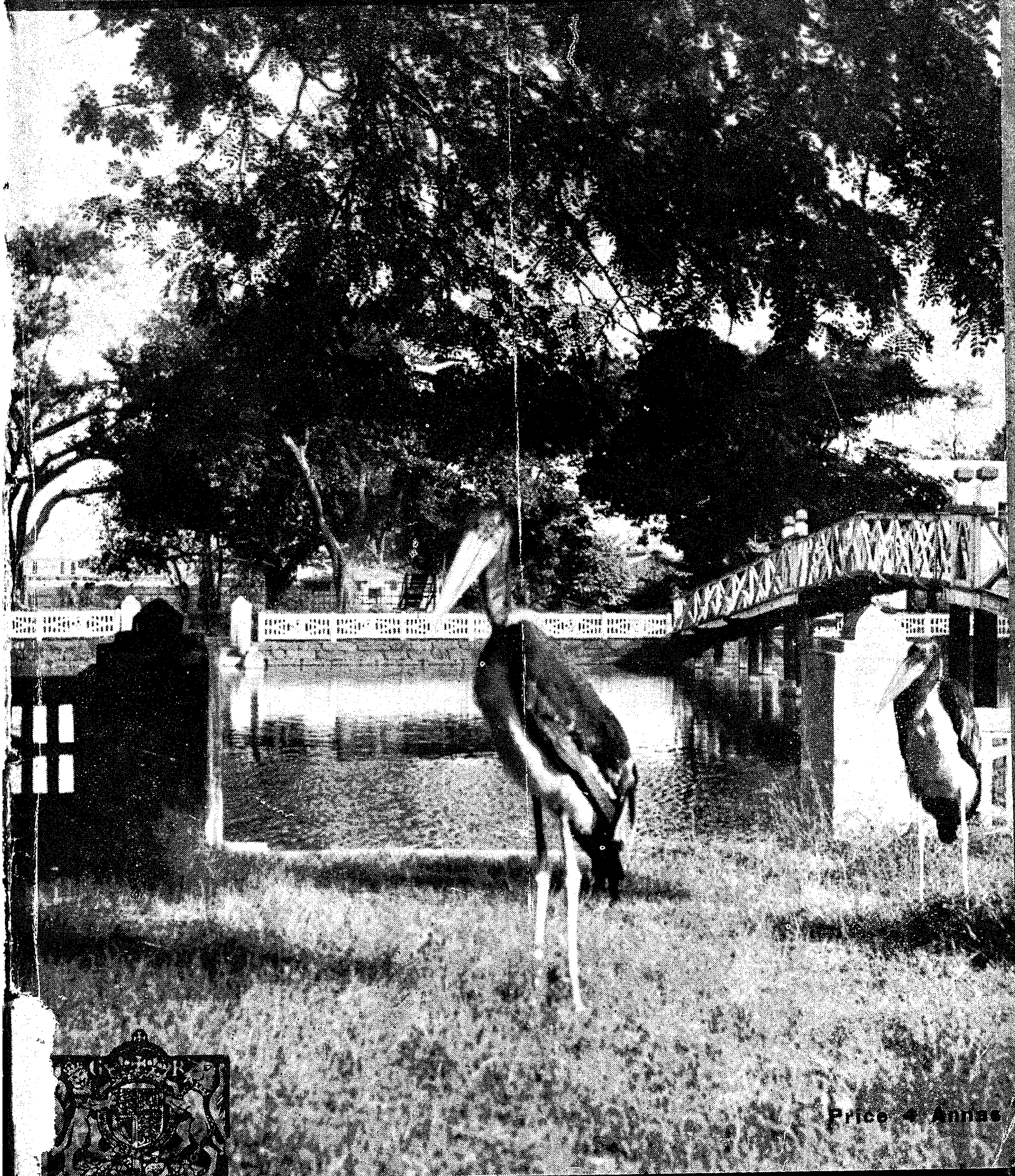
MADRAS INFORMATION



Price 4 Annas

MAIN FEATURES:

(1) Meet Them At The Zoo—Cover Page
(2) Notes And Comments
(3) Some Press Notes
(4) Prohibition
(5) Strikes And Lock-outs
(6) Government Departments At Work
(7) Textile Policy
(8) Fighting Back The Famine
(9) Why Villagism?
(10) Madras in Pictures

ADVERTISEMENT TARIFF

Outside Cover Page	Rs. 150
Inside "	" 125
Other Pages	" 100
Half Page	" 60

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Annual	.. Rs. 6
Half-yearly	... Rs. 3

Less than half year's subscription will not be accepted.

Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

Anything appearing in this journal may be freely reproduced.

Photographs of the members of Madras Cabinet and of the buildings, monuments etc., appearing in our series "Madras in Pictures" are available for sale at 6 As. a print, on condition that they are not reproduced in any journal, paper, book or any other medium. For such reproductions special rates, to be obtained from our office, will be levied.

MADRAS INFORMATION

Published every fortnight by the Director of Information and Publicity, Fort St. George, Madras.

VOL. I No. 5 — WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE — December 7, 1946

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Govt's Textile policy and Cotton-growers' Interests

In a clinching statement the hon. Sri. T. Prakasam has answered those critics of the Madras Government's textile policy who assert that it is detrimental to the interests of cotton growers in the province, particularly of the Rayalaseema area. Among the points emphasised by him are first, that there had been no substantial increase in the area under short staple cotton in the province during the last twenty years to justify the anticipation that its potential expansion would be stopped by a check on the expansion of the mills. Between 1923-24 and 1945-46, inspite of the increase in the number of mills and the efforts made by the Government, the increase in the yield of cotton has only been about 28,000 bales, and no question arises of impeding the development and the growth of a crop which, even under the most favourable auspices, had shown only a comparatively insignificant response to existing demand during two decades. On the other hand the cotton-growers of Rayalaseema and other areas will continue to cultivate the cotton crop as they have been doing all along, because it pays them to do so and because whatever they produce will find as ready a market hereafter as hitherto. It is bad logic and unsound psychological appreciation of the position to maintain that the cultivation of cotton will be interfered with by the development of the khadi industry, when the industry can be depended upon to consume all the cotton that will be available at the present rate of production and may even require more than what is available *pari passu* with its own expansion and development under the aegis of the State.

Secondly, it is an undeniable fact that the production of better varieties of cotton has been insufficient to meet the requirements of the existing mills themselves and it passes comprehension how the requirements of a larger number of mills can be met by the cotton growers. On the other hand under a systematically developed khadi industry, the whole of the finer varieties of cotton that can be grown will be consumed by the hand-spinning industry itself; and as the Premier's statement pointed out, hand spun yarn of finer counts is being produced at present in the Chicacole area on a fairly extensive scale and can conveniently be taken up in other places to.

Thirdly, the cotton-growers may rest assured of a fair price for their produce as much under a khadi development scheme as under a mill expansion scheme. In fact it is preposterous to suggest that under the khadi scheme executed under Government auspices, whose main concern is to ameliorate the conditions of the cultivator and the handspinner and the khadi weaver, their interests will be in greater jeopardy than under a mill expansion programme and its concomitant of a continuance of the capitalistic, individualistic economy. The argument about danger to cotton growing interests if further expansion of mills is stopped, therefore, contains its own refutation. It is based on the superficial and unwarranted assumption that the cotton-growers' interests are somehow bound up with the establishment of more mills, and that the former will be in danger if the latter is checked.

That the Government of Madras have accepted the principle of nationalisation of certain vital industries is evident from the appointment of a Cabinet Committee to investigate the question of nationalisation of bus transport. According to the Hon'ble Sri V. V. Giri, the Government are contemplating nationalisation of some other basic industries too like cement and fertilisers and though nothing has been said about textiles, suggestions have been put forward in that respect too. There is no need to regard the term

"nationalisation" with exaggerated alarm, as it is a principle, the soundness and validity of which has been accepted everywhere in respect of industries of a key character and which are classified as public utility industries.

But transport is one of the industries which is peculiarly appropriate for being brought under State control and management and cannot be taken exception to after we have had an implementation of that principle in the case of railways. What form nationalisation of the road transport industry will ultimately assume is of course a matter for careful consideration and will no doubt be decided in the best interests of the public. As a competent writer recently put it, "State ownership and control do not mean that enterprises should be administered by the ordinary machinery of Government." The new economy may be what we may describe as a "managerial economy", and as the same writer points out, "the system of administration by a public authority freed from political interference in day-to-day administration has now become an accepted method of managing nationalised concerns." The paramount consideration in all nationalisation schemes is the promotion of public interests subject to democratic control through a technically efficient agency. It may be mentioned here that steps have already been taken in the Punjab and Bombay to bring bus services under Government control, with the result that the public are able to have an improved and more satisfactory road transport.

Communist Propaganda

The press note issued on November 16th on police firing in Coimbatore C. S. W. Mill area should clear up the many inaccuracies and exaggerations in the mendacious propaganda that is being carried on in the Communist press against the Government in connection with that incident. The Communists have systematically evolved a technique of twisting and embellishing simple facts with lurid details to suit the requirements of their party propaganda and they have a method of creating situations, in which the use of force will become necessary, so that afterwards they can turn round and exploit that development for purposes of propaganda. Another vital part of their technique that was noticeable in Coimbatore and at other places also has been to utilise women workers as pawns in their party game, and poor and innocent women are made to pay the penalty, sometimes with their lives, to enable party "comrades" to score a point against organised Government. The present Government, being a popular one, is probably expected by them to condone and cover up their mischievous propensities, to countenance their acts of deliberate defiance of law and order and their attempts to create confusion and chaos. But when they find that their calculations have misfired, and the Government determined not to allow them a free hand, they pursue their anti-social activities by indulging in the vilest of anti-Congress and anti-Government propaganda. So far as the Coimbatore incident is concerned, there has been evidence to show that the Communists demanded impossible conditions like the reinstatement of sixteen workers dismissed as a disciplinary measure and for the employment of only members of the Communist Union in the mills. The demand was as utterly unreasonable as it was unacceptable, and to enforce it, they resorted to a sit-down strike to prevent loyal workers from entering the mills and coupled it with stone-throwing and soda bottle throwing at them. The Communist technique is clearly evident in this incident; and when the police had to intervene to enable loyal workers to enter, they were also attacked and thus forced to open fire. In the result, seven persons were killed and twenty-five injured, though the party propagandists put the number of casualties much higher. It may suit the book of the designing Communists to provoke incidents and clashes with the police; but in the process those who suffer and pay with their lives are mostly innocent women and men. It is time that the Communist game is thoroughly exposed and that all sections of the community who are for orderly progress and peace combined themselves to fight the menace. It is time that mischief-mongers realised that even though it is a popular Government that is in power, it will not tolerate conditions in which chaos is proposed to be substituted for law and peaceful progress.

Some Press Notes of Madras Govt.

Scheduled Castes and Public Services

Issued on November 25

Under the Statutory Service Rules, in the case of services and posts to which recruitment is made on a communal basis, one out of every twelve vacancies is reserved for members of the Scheduled Castes. In actual practice even for this one vacancy sufficient candidates are not forthcoming from those castes. The vacancies which have been kept unfilled for want of suitable and qualified candidates of the Scheduled Castes are being accumulated so that they may be filled at a future date when suitable and qualified candidates become available.

In June, 1946 the Government of India decided to increase the proportion of reservation of vacancies in favour of the Scheduled Castes to be filled by direct recruitment in Central Services from 8 1/3 per cent to 12½ per cent, so as to bring it into accord with the population ratio. The Government of Madras considered the question of adopting the policy of the Government of India and increasing the percentage of appointments to be allowed to the Scheduled Castes to 12½%. In view, however, of the dearth of suitable and qualified candidates among Scheduled Castes mentioned in para 1 above, the Government have decided that the increased percentage can be given effect to only when sufficient numbers of suitable and qualified candidates become available from the Scheduled Castes.

Cholera Epidemic

Issued on November 26

An examination into the trends of cholera epidemic in the Province during the next three months shows that cholera may occur in mild epidemic form in the Districts of South Arcot, Tanjore and Trichinopoly. The Health Officers and local authorities in these and neighbouring districts have been instructed to take all necessary preventive measures well in advance of expected outbreaks.

Holidays Restored

Issued on November 25.

The Government have decided that all the Statutory and sectional holidays which were in force before the war should be restored and that the non-Statutory holidays should also, with one exception, be restored, but that in substitution of Easter Thursday and Easter Tuesday, a holiday one day before and one day after Ayudha Puja be granted. The local and special holidays which were kept in abeyance since 1942 will also be restored. The Government have further decided to restore the old office hours in Government offices from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. both in the city and in the mofussil.

Ex-Servicemen's Relief Committee

Issued on November 15.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Provincial War Committee held on the 9th November 1946 at Fort St. George, it was resolved that His Excellency the Governor's Amenities and Relief Fund be wound up and the Provincial War Committee and its various sub-committees be dissolved. A statement of accounts of the fund from its inception will be published in due course. The balance now remaining in the fund is about Rs. 10 lakhs. It was decided that this should be administered in future by a committee set up for the purpose, for the benefit of men in the Defence Services and their families and for ex-servicemen. The committee will be constituted as follows:

1. His Excellency the Governor, who will be the Chairman.
2. Three Representatives of the Army, Navy and Air Force respectively.
3. Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar.
4. Kumararaja Sir M. A. Muthiah Chettiar of Chettinad.
5. Mr. N Sivaraj.

Ceiling Prices for Groundnut

Issued on November 20.

Representations have been made to the Government that the prices of unshelled groundnut and refined oil should also be fixed and that the margin of profit allowed

at present to a retail dealer is uneconomical and should be increased. The Government after a careful consideration have fixed ceiling prices for unshelled groundnut and refined oil and revised the ceiling prices for ordinary groundnut oil as:

	Southern Zone (1)	Northern Zone (2)
	(Chingleput, North Arcot, South Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Salem, Coimbatore, the Nilgiris, Malabar, South Kanara, Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevelly.)	(Madras, Vizagapatam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, Nellore, Cuddapah, Bellary, Anantapur, Kurnool, and Chittoor.)
Unshelled Groundnut	Rs. 9-13-0 per Imperial maund loose.	Rs. 10-0-0 per Imperial maund loose.
Groundnut Oil		
(1) **Sale ex mill:** (whether by a miller or dealer in any quantity.)		
(a) For oil containing not more than 4 per cent of free fatty acid.	Rs. 36-8-0 per Imperial maund ex-mill naked **exclusive** of sales tax.	Rs. 33-0-0 per Imperial maund ex-mill naked **exclusive** of sales tax.
(b) For oil with a free fatty acid content exceeding 4 per cent.	Rs. 35-0-0 per Imperial maund ex-mill naked **exclusive** of sales tax.	Rs. 36-3-0 per Imperial maund ex-mill naked **exclusive** of sales tax.
(c) For refined oil the free fatty acid content of which has been reduced to below ½ per cent. by the use of chemicals and which has also been bleached.	Rs. 40-0-0 per Imperial maund ex-mill naked **exclusive** of sales tax.	Rs. 41-8-0 per Imperial maund ex-mill naked **exclusive** of sales tax.
(2) **Sale by wholesaler:** (i.e. sale other than ex-mill sale in quantities of one imperial maund or more at a time.)		
(a) For oil containing not more than 4 per cent of free fatty acid.	Rs. 38-0-0 per Imperial maund ex-godown naked **exclusive** of sales tax.	Rs. 39-8-0 per Imperial maund ex-godown naked **exclusive** of sales tax.
(b) For oil with a free fatty acid content exceeding 4 per cent.	Rs. 36-8-0 per Imperial maund ex-godown naked **exclusive** of sales tax.	Rs. 38-0-0 per Imperial maund ex-godown naked **exclusive** of sales tax.
(c) For refined oil the free fatty acid content of which has been reduced to below ½ per cent by the use of chemicals and which has also been bleached.	Rs. 41-8-0 per Imperial maund ex-godown naked **exclusive** of sales tax.	Rs. 43-0-0 per Imperial maund ex-godown naked **exclusive** of sales tax.
(3) **Sale by retailer:** (i.e. sale in quantities less than one Imperial maund at a time.)	In districts other than the Nilgiris Rs. 1-7-9 per viss **exclusive** of sales tax and in the Nilgiris Rs. 1-9-9 per viss. **exclusive** of sales tax.	Rs. 1-3-6 per viss **exclusive** of sales tax.

The prices for unshelled groundnut are for nuts of fair average quality, free from moisture and dirt.

The higher prices for refined oil will be allowed only if the oil is packed in containers marked "Refined Oil" with a declaration that the fatty acid content is below ½ per cent. The price is exclusive of the containers.

Contracts entered into on or before the 19th November, 1946, in respect of unshelled groundnut at rates higher than those mentioned above may be fulfilled at such higher rates until the 19th December, 1946 and the subsisting contracts in respect of ordinary groundnut oil for a sale in bulk not being a sale ex-mill may be fulfilled before the 19th

December, 1946 at the rates that were in force on the 19th November, 1946. When the prices are revised next, such a long interval of time will not be given to clear the existing contracts.

Reservation of vacancies for Servicemen

Issued on November 21

With the two-fold object of stopping diversion to the civil service, with its superior attractions, of men who would otherwise form the best material for the fighting services and encouraging offers to serve with the fighting forces by offering the inducement of suitable civil appointment on demobilisation, the Madras Government decided in 1941 to reserve for persons who had rendered war service a percentage of all substantive vacancies arising on or after 1-4-1941 which should be filled by direct recruitment. Later, all substantive direct recruitment vacancies, with a few exceptions, were similarly reserved and later still temporary vacancies of long duration were also reserved. Thus the position is that practically all appointments to be made by direct recruitment are reserved for candidates with war service. Those who have been appointed pending recruitment of war service candidates have no claim for permanent appointment as they are regarded as being only on a purely temporary basis.

The orders of reservation referred to above will cease with effect from 1-4-1947 unless there are still vacancies left to war service men by the confirmation of non-war servicemen in vacancies which arose between 1-4-1941 and 31-3-1943 to be made good.

The Government while fully appreciating the claims of war service candidates for reserved vacancies in Government service feel that those who were recruited to civil posts on a temporary basis are also entitled to some recognition and they have for some time been considering how to reconcile these conflicting claims. They have now decided that two-thirds of all the vacancies reserved be filled by candidates who have rendered service in the War 1939-1945, the actual appointments being suitably spaced out to enable those whose demobilization is delayed up to 1-4-1947 to apply for reserved posts for which they are qualified. The remaining vacancies, i.e., one-third of the total, will be candidates who have not rendered war service, the selection being from amongst the most suitable of those who have been filling the civil posts temporarily. In this connection the Government have considered to what extent men who belonged to the Indian National Army should be eligible for reserved vacancies. They have decided that Indian National Army personnel should be treated in exactly the same way as ex-servicemen and have equal claims to be considered for reserved vacancies for which they are suitable but that they will not be considered for any vacancies in the Police services.

Prices of Sugar-cane and Jaggery

Issued on November 21

In a Press Note issued on the 2nd November, 1946, the Government announced their intention to fix

(1) The minimum prices for cane delivered to the sugar factories; and

(2) ceiling prices for jaggery, both wholesale and retail, for all the districts in this province which were however subject to the approval of the Government of India.

The approval of the Government of India has since been obtained and the prices fixed have been finally notified in the Fort St. George Gazette dated 19-11-1946. The levels at which the various prices range are given below:—

Sugarcane prices: From Rs. 26 to Rs. 35 per ton according to factories, to come into effect forthwith.

Ceiling Jaggery, whole sale prices: (1st Sort) Rs. 13-8 to Rs. 17-8 per Imperial maund according to district; (2nd Sort) Rs. 12 to Rs. 16 according to district.

Retail prices: (1st Sort) Re. 0-9-0 to Re. 0-12-0 per viss according to districts; (2nd Sort) Rs. 0-8-2 to Rs. 0-10-11 per viss according to district.

Salary of Teachers

Issued on November 25.

Government have received representations from teacher-managers and Managements of schools that the 15 per cent of the salary of teachers sanctioned in G.O. No. 1495, dated 31-7-1946 as the grant to the Managements concerned is not sufficient for their expenses. Besides, it was laid down in the G.O. that in higher elementary schools where fees are being charged, they will not be eligible for this grant and representations have been made that as the amount accruing from fees in these schools is very little, the grants should not be stopped in their case. Government are at present considering these representations.

Food Position of Bellary and Anantapur

Issued on November 22.

There was moderate rainfall in Bellary and Anantapur during the first two weeks of

October, the average being more than 1½ inches. There was no rain worth mentioning during the latter half of the month. The irrigation sources in both the districts received appreciable supplies during the month. Sowing of Hingari crops is in progress; weeding is being attended to. The harvest of Mungari crops yielded a fair out-turn.

The seasonal conditions have very much improved in both the districts and the relief works are being closed one by one except those which are nearly complete or are of such a nature that their stopping would result in wasting the work already done and consequently result in monetary loss to Government. With the exception of such works, the Collectors of Bellary and Anantapur have been requested to close down all other works. The number of works in progress in each of the districts under each category is given below:—

District.	Works.	Irrigation works.	Other works including wells.	Total
Anantapur ..	25	3	29	57
Bellary ..	1	8	18	27
	26	11	47	84

The daily average number of persons relieved was 3,325 in Anantapur and 1,907 in Bellary.

Out of 26 fodder depots sanctioned for Anantapur district, only 11 are now working, the remaining 15 have been closed and the staff attached to them with the exception of a watcher has been disbanded as there was no demand for fodder as a result of the recent rains. The Government have ordered the closure of all the depots in Bellary. But only 4 have been closed. The other 3 are functioning. Particulars of receipts and sales of fodder in the districts are given below:—

District	In tons		
	Receipts.	Sales	Balance.
Anantapur ..	1,631	68	1,563
Bellary ..	611	5	606
Total ..	2,242	73	2,169

Gratuitous relief in the shape of cash and grain is being distributed to the infirm and decrepit persons in the villages in both the districts. The daily average numbers relieved under this category are 15,234 in Anantapur and 1,952 in Bellary. Distribution of relief has been ordered to be stopped with effect from 16th November, 1946 as it is expected that there will be ample supplies of grains in the districts as a result of the harvest by the middle of this month and that it will be easier for persons to provide grains for their dependants.

Four relief kitchens were opened at Perur, Kambadur, Amarapuram and Agali villages in Anantapur district on 15th September, 1946 for the relief of poor and indigent children who were supplied with cooked food. All the four kitchens have been closed with effect from 31st October, 1946.

Milk Distribution

Large consignments of condensed milk supplied to the Collectors for distribution among expectant and nursing mothers and children up to 8 years have been exhausted. This scheme has been discontinued and a new scheme of distribution of milk to elementary school children has been introduced.

The seasonal conditions in the districts have considerably improved and it may be said that normal conditions have been restored.

Food Situation

Anantapur. The Board has allotted 1,000 tons of rice from Tanjore, 500 tons of cholam from Gwalior, 1,586 tons of maize and 325 tons of barley to this district recently. Arrangements have been made for importing the allotment of 300 tons of cholam from Banganapalle State.

The stocks of rice and millets are sufficient to meet the requirements of the district.

Bellary. The stock position of food-grains in the district is as follows:—

	Bags
Paddy	1,574
Rice	13,965
Cholam	32,614
Korra	2,843
Ragi	1,207
Sajja	160
Varagu	377
Maize	11,945
Wheat	11,947

The above stocks are expected to last for about 1½ to 2 months.

Rural rationing is working throughout the district. The stocks of food-grains allotted for October have been moved almost completely.

Compost Manure

Issued on November 28.

A conference of selected Commissioners of Municipalities was held at the Secretariat on November 28 in connection with compost manufacture and distribution. It was presided over by the Hon'ble Mr. Kumaraswami

Raja, Minister for Agriculture. The Additional Secretary, Development Department, Director of Agriculture, Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards, Registrar of Co-operative Societies and the Director of Public Health attended the conference.

The steps to be taken for effective and consistent propaganda among cultivators, maintenance of demonstration plots by the Agricultural Department, the assistance to be given to the local bodies to facilitate the production of compost, and the machinery for the distribution of the manure were some of the items discussed at the conference.

The general view was that co-operative societies should be entrusted with the distribution of compost manure and that if co-operative societies were unwilling to come forward to undertake the work the local bodies themselves may sell the compost direct to the ryots or in public auction. Some of the Commissioners stated that they required help in the matter of transport.

It was observed that while compost was in great demand in certain municipalities there was very little demand in certain other areas.

There was a free discussion on the merits of compost manure and the general opinion of the conference was that all steps should be taken to popularise compost manure and to step up its production.

Mulberry Cultivation Order Explained

Issued on November 20.

Owing to the imperative need for ensuring the maximum cultivation of food crops at present, it was ordered in a G.O., dated 9-10-46 that further extension of mulberry cultivation on lands which have not been cultivated with mulberry before the issue of this order in the Kollegal Taluk in the Coimbatore district should be prohibited for a period of 2 years and that the order shall come into force from 15th October, 1946. It has been brought to the notice of the Government that this order has created an erroneous impression in some quarters that even re-planting in the existing mulberry gardens will not be allowed and that the new mulberry planted during the planting season of 1946 (before the receipt of the order referred to above) which will be ready for picking from January 1947 onwards will also be seized. The Government desire to make it clear that such an interpretation of the order is erroneous as the ban imposed is only applicable to lands that will be newly planted with mulberry in the coming season of 1947 and not for the season which is already over. It is not the intention of the Government to prohibit re-planting of mulberry in the existing mulberry gardens. The Government wish to make their intention clear that the newly planted mulberry in 1946 which will come to the leaf picking stage in January 1947 will be left untouched and will not be seized under clause 2 (ii) of the order under notification.

Sales Tax Exemptions

Issued on November 30.

Soon after the present Ministry assumed Office in April last, a number of representations and memoranda were received by the Government from various Merchants' Associations, Chambers of Commerce and individuals pointing out that in spite of the exemption granted under Section 8 of the Madras General Sales Tax Act, 1939, commission agents had been unjustly and illegally assessed to sale tax in many places. The Government asked the Special Officer for Commercial Taxes to investigate into the grievances of the commission agents and to submit a detailed report to the Government in the matter. At the same time, the Government ordered that the collection of tax from commission agents who had taken out licences under Section 8 of the Madras General Sales Tax Act, 1939 should be stayed pending further orders.

The Special Officer for Commercial Taxes has since submitted his report. After carefully considering his report, the Government are satisfied that the commission agents in question were rightly assessed to sales tax for failure to comply with one or other of the conditions of the licence granted to them under Section 8 of the Madras General Sales Tax Act, 1939.

The Government have accordingly directed that the assessment of commission agents who do not satisfy the conditions of the licence should be proceeded with and that doubtful points should be settled by decisions in appeal or revision as hitherto. They have also ordered the collection of the tax which had been stayed.

In the case of certain assessments on dealings in cotton in the Bellary district for contravention of the conditions of the licence under Section 8, the Government have ordered that the assessments should be cancelled, as cotton is an exempted article, and that licences under Section 5 of the Madras General Sales Tax Act, 1939 should be issued to the dealers with retrospective effect on payment of a nominal penalty. In the case of certain assessments of commission agents in groundnut in the same district, the Government have ordered that they should be revised and calculated on the amounts which the agents paid to the seller instead of on the amounts paid by the buyer.

MORE BUSES FOR CITY

Measures to Prevent Overloading

The Central Road Traffic Board, Madras, has issued instructions to all Regional Transport Officers to prevent overloading and excess fare collection in buses. The Regional Transport Officers have been instructed to take severe disciplinary action when these offences are detected.

The Government propose to run 30 buses in the Madras City to relieve congestion. The construction of bus bodies is in progress and the services are expected to commence from the beginning of January, 1947.

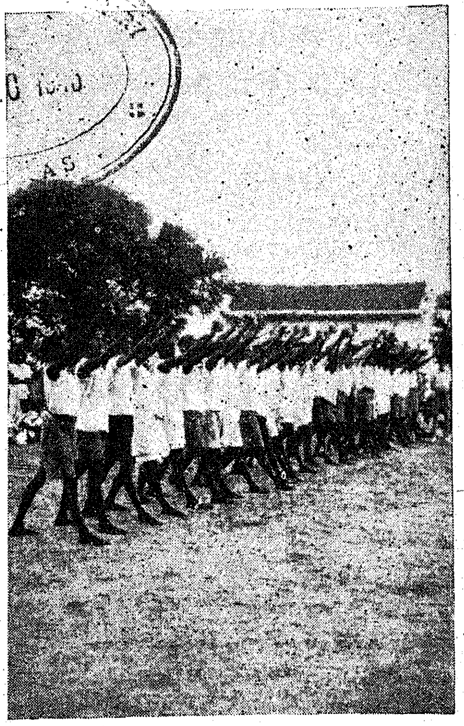
PROHIBITION NEWS

Kurnool

Thrift schemes have been introduced among the Nandyal Municipal workers. In the wake of prohibition 2 Cinema houses have sprung up in the District.

Coimbatore

The Hon'ble Mr. Kotti Reddy toured in the District and addressed many public meetings. The two refreshment stalls in Coimbatore Taluk are doing good work. The Annur firka tournament was organised on a grand scale. About 15 Jaggery Manufacturers' Societies have been organised.



Students of Rural Uplift School presenting Hundi boxes to the villagers.

A free reading room—in the wake of prohibition in Salem.

Salem

The Hon'ble Mr. Kotti Reddy toured this district also. During the last fortnight 6 firka tournaments were organised. Arrangements are being made to organise wool carpet industry on a co-operative basis for the benefit of ex-tappers. 500 hundi boxes have been distributed.

North Arcot District

Variety entertainments are being organised in villages.

Chittoor District

Six recreation clubs have been organised in six villages in the district. In several villages thrift campaigns have been launched and games organised.

Salem District

Eight firka tournaments in 'chadugudu' were conducted.

A Taluq Tournament in 'chadugudu' was conducted at Harur on 28th October, 1946, when a rural exhibition of agricultural products and small handicrafts and also a cattle-show were conducted.

A new reading-room was opened at Yercaud and the local gramasangham conducted a village drama.

Cuddapah

Eleven gramasanghams have been organised. Tournaments and rural games were held in twenty villages. Bhajana parties were organised at six places.

Arrangements are afoot to open a park in Mannur of Rajampet town and to provide it with a radio.. One park has been opened in the Mannur Harijan quarters by the side of the temple for the Harijans. The ryots of Chintakommadinne have agreed to equip their local park with a radio. The district Central Bank and the town bank, Cuddapah, have agreed to go in for radios, to be installed near their bank premises.

Four schools for adults, two in Chitvel (in Telugu and Urdu) and another at Kodur by the Mission authorities and another at Jammalmadugu by the Divisional Development Committee were organised during the fortnight.

Hundi boxes were distributed to the ryots.

Intensive rural uplift work has been taken up in the Virapandy firka. Dramas were staged in two villages. Reading rooms were re-organised in two villages. In one village a kathakalekshepam was conducted. A thrift drive was inaugurated at Virapandy and Ellampalli by the Special Officer of the National Savings Scheme and the Special Development Officer.

A co-operative stores was opened in the Tiruchengode taluq by the President of the District Board. 25 hundi boxes were distributed among the people and they were encouraged to save in them.

On 31-10-1946, a new radio was installed in the park at Jalakantapuram-Malayampalayam. The Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Local Administration switched on the radio and the electric lights.

Anantapur

The Uravakonda Panchayat Board has laid out a park. The Weavers' Co-operative Society has agreed to instal a radio set for community listening.

Variety entertainment at a recent firka tournament in Salem.

22 DEC

ENFORCEMENT AND AMELIORATION

DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF PROHIBITION SCHEME EXPLAINED

(*By A. F. W. Dixon, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.*)

PROHIBITION is not an end in itself, but a means to an end. The object of introducing Prohibition is to raise the economic, social and moral level of the masses. It is necessary therefore, not only to attempt to enforce Prohibition effectively, but also to ensure that the public, in particular the poorer section, benefit to the full from the measure. Hence it is that Government have divided Prohibition work into two parts, Enforcement and Amelioration. The two parts are closely inter-related, since successful ameliorative work will not be possible unless enforcement is adequate, while on the other hand without ameliorative work, enforcement will be rendered more difficult and even if effective, will not fully achieve its objective of raising the economic, social and moral level of the people.

A Difficult Task

Coming first to enforcement, I consider it necessary not to under-estimate the magnitude and difficulty of the task of enforcing the Prohibition Act effectively in the 8 Districts. The population of the eight Districts is approximately 15 millions. In these districts, we have closed 3,445 toddy shops, 2,055 arrack shops, 161 ganja shops and 103 opium shops. In these districts, perhaps 1 million people were spending about 11 crores of rupees on drink and drugs annually. The task before us is thus to change the habits of about a million people. Most of us know how difficult it is to change any settled habit in our own lives and few habits are more difficult to break than drinking and drug-taking. The enforcement staff is also faced with the further difficulty that unlike the position in ordinary crimes, there is usually no injured party in prohibition crime.

If some one illicitly distills arrack or taps a tree for toddy, there is no injured party, and the offender's neighbours will generally be loath to come forward with information which may result in their neighbour being sent to jail for what they may not consider to be a crime at all in the ordinary sense.

Inflation Also Helps

There is another difficulty peculiar to these times. In comparison with pre-war conditions when Prohibition was first introduced, there is more money in the hands of the people, and less to spend it on, particularly less food and cloth, the two major items in the poor man's budget. Hence the urge to spend money on drink is greater (this has been shown in the last few years by the huge increase in Excise receipts. An increase of nearly 3 crores in 1945-46 over 1944-45, an increase by 30% in one year in arrack consumption, and by 1/3 in foreign liquor consumption, including Indian-made foreign spirit). Hence the money and effort which will be expended on illicit practices will be greater. It is of interest also to note that all the 8 Prohibition Districts are included among the 14 in the Province in which illicit distillation (the Prohibitionist's bugbear) is particularly prevalent.

I have not minimised the difficulties because I believe that it is necessary to state them clearly and face them squarely if they are to be overcome, and because I wish to emphasise how necessary it is for officials of all departments of the Provincial Government and local bodies and for the general public to give all the assistance in their power to the enforcement staff so that the Act may be made effective.

Responsibility of Officials

The enforcement staff itself is small, and handicapped as it is by lack of information it has to be assisted in every way possible. This was realised by the framers of the Act and I would remind those who are in the employ of the Provincial Government or of local bodies, of Sections 35 and 36 of the Act. Under Section 35 of the Act, they are legally bound to assist any Prohibition or Police Officer in carrying out the provisions of the Act. Under Section 36, they are bound to give immediate information of all breaches of any of the Act which may come to their knowledge and to take all reasonable measures in their power to prevent any such breaches

which they may know or have reason to believe are about or are likely to be committed. It may not be a pleasant task to give information regarding Prohibition crime, but it is a duty which every officer of the Government and of local bodies is bound to perform, and if they are constantly on the alert they can be of the greatest use to the department.

Duty of the Public

It is, however, upon the co-operation of the general public that we have chiefly to rely. At the last elections the public returned an overwhelming majority of candidates pledged to reintroduce Prohibition. It has, therefore, to be assumed that, large though the number of drinkers and drug-takers may have been, the great majority of the population favour Prohibition and wish it success. Success cannot be attained without hard work and some sacrifice. If this large body of persons co-operate fully with the enforcement staff then success is assured. If they feel they have done their duty having recorded their vote and perhaps joined in a procession on the opening day, then success is doubtful, and I would warn you that while Prohibition successfully enforced will bring many benefits to the homes of many thousands of poor people, a failure would have disastrous consequences. The general public must help by acting as the eyes and ears of the enforcement staff, and through propaganda and in other ways create such public feeling in towns and villages that ex-drinkers and drug-takers will not resume their former habits on account of fear of disgrace and social ostracism. Some will become members of the Taluk Prohibition Committees, which have the statutory functions of reporting offences and reporting on the working of the Act to the Collector. Others may be appointed members of Village Prohibition Committees, assisting the department in successful enforcement in villages; but the great majority will not belong to these committees. We want their active, not merely passive, support also.

Ameliorative Aspects

I have dealt with the less pleasant side of Prohibition, the importance of which, though, cannot be glossed over. There is also the equally important constructive ameliorative side. The objects of ameliorative work are (1) to provide counter-attractions to drink and drugs, making it easier for the ex-addict to give up his old habits, (2) to carry through a programme of urban and rural uplift, which will ensure that towns-men and villagers obtain the maximum benefit from this measure of social reforms.

Use Love Rather Than Fear

Most of my talk so far has been concerned with enforcement, and the necessity of assisting the enforcement staff in bringing offenders against the Prohibition Law to book. But we should rather prefer to deal with ex-addicts in another way. Our aim is to create conditions in the villages which will minimise the urge to drink to the greatest extent possible. It is essential for Prohibition workers to sympathise with ex-drinkers and to understand their feelings. For the majority of them, drinking is a form of escapism. After perhaps a heavy day's toil, they have nothing to do but to return to probably a small, dark and dirty hut, and sit on the pial. Small wonder that they prefer to resort along with their friends to the toddy shop and spend an evening of jovial companionship and drinking where they forget their worries and the boredom of village life. It is our duty when we take away what the drinker would consider a valuable amenity, to substitute something in its place; it is our duty to do all in our power to make the change over from drinking to abstinence easy, to prevent the commission of offences by removing or lessening the desire to commit them, rather than to wait until the offence is committed and to send the offender to jail. Of the two great forces in the world, love and fear, we prefer to make use of the former.

Alternative Refreshments

The most obvious counter-attraction in the early stages is the provision of some form of refreshment in or near the toddy shop itself. About 1,000 refreshment stalls have been opened in the more important centres in the Prohibition districts. Such refreshments as jaggery water, butter-milk, tea, coffee and food made from Bengal gram, maize and wheat are provided free for the first month and at reduced rates for the 2nd or 3rd, after which it is expected that the urge to visit the toddy shop will have died down and private enterprise will have provided alternatives. Government sanctioned Rs. 100 for each stall, but this is not and was not expected to be sufficient to cover the whole cost and the many persons who are interested in the successful working of Prohibition have been asked to help with gifts in kind or in money. This is a good opportunity for the public to show that they do not pay only lip service to the cause of Prohibition.

Entertainments & Sports

It is not, however, enough merely to provide for a short period some kind of alternative to the toddy shop. Much more has to be done

to relieve the tedium and boredom of the evening hours. A large-scale movement has, accordingly, been launched, having as its object the provision in towns and villages, of sports and games and entertainments, mainly indigenous, such as chedugudu, harikatas, pandari bhajanas, kalakshepams, dramas, radio, cinema shows and the like, so as to enliven the evening hours. That it is possible to do this on a big scale was shown in Salem district, where there were at one time over 1,000 centres of rural recreation. A special staff has been sanctioned to guide this movement, but Government must rely mainly on non-official support. You can help by joining or offering your services to the local rural recreation club, grama sangham, or betterment committee, or by serving on or helping the Firka Committee, the Taluk Association or the District Committee, by providing facilities for recreation and by entertaining villagers yourselves. You can even adopt a village and make yourself or yourselves responsible for seeing that adequate entertainment is provided.

Rural Uplift Drives

The provision of counter attractions is the first task, but more than this is required, in order that the object of Prohibition, the uplift of the masses, may be attained. It is necessary to organise district-wide rural uplift drives.

The establishment of a rural recreation organisation in the village providing games and other entertainments, though intended primarily to provide counter-attractions to drink has been found to be an excellent preparation for rural uplift. Games and entertainments bring villages together, unite them, waken them from lethargy and make them more ready both to undertake village betterment work themselves and to profit by Government schemes for village improvement.

This prepares the way for the formation of a grama sangham or village betterment committee whose work, after counter-attractions have been organised, will be to carry out a programme of village uplift.

Thrift Movement

An obvious early task will be to organise a thrift movement particularly intended for ex-addicts but open to all. 11 crores of rupees were formerly spent per year mainly by the poor on drink and drugs in the 8 districts. It is clearly most important that good use should be made of the money saved. A part will be required at first for clearing debts, and providing necessities if available, such as a sufficiency of food and clothing; but, especially at a time like this, when there is a shortage of consumer goods, a unique opportunity is offered to launch a thrift drive to transform the masses of poor people into creditors instead of debtors. The most popular form which the thrift movement takes is the Home Safe Deposit or Hundi box scheme, organised by co-operative societies, favourable rates of interest being given. The best alternative is investment in National Savings. Supposing it were possible to persuade ex-addicts to save even only ¼ of what they used to spend on drink and drugs, 2¾ crores of rupees would be invested annually mainly by the poor, in Small Savings. Not only would the crushing burden of rural indebtedness be largely lifted, but in many thousands of homes money would be available, for instance, for the purchase of cattle, to meet the expenses of a daughter's wedding or a son's education, and even for the construction of a house or the purchase of land. Thus, one of the first tasks of the Village Uplift Committee would be to inaugurate a thrift drive. It would then undertake a regular programme of village betterment which might be on a six monthly basis. During the first six months, besides organising amusements and launching a thrift drive, the programme might include regular village cleaning days, removal of cattle from houses, filling up of insanitary pits and improvements to drains and communications. Other items to be considered then or later might be, a house building scheme, improved agriculture and animal husbandry, better facilities for education, provision of a village hall with reading room, park and radio—a playground would, it is hoped, have already been provided—and provision in the large villages of a rural dispensary.

Finance

The question may well be asked, where is the money coming from for so many improvement schemes in ten thousand villages. Unfortunately, it is not possible for Government in view of their heavy commitments to provide large sums for village improvements. Except in one firka in each district, in the other 39 or whatever it may be, we have to ask the villagers to rely, for the present, mainly on self-help, though it is hoped that help will be received from local bodies (For example in Salem, the District Board gave to Village Committees half grant for work on the improvement of villages) and from Government, who may be expected to give special assistance to Village Committees which have shown by their good work that they are deserving of help. Once the villagers have been brought together and interested, however, there is a great deal which can be done by common effort to improve village life, and a great deal that can be learnt once interest is awakened.

CAUSES AND ASPECTS OF LABOUR DISPUTES

STRIKES AND LOCK-OUTS

The following is a joint discussion broadcast from the All-India Radio, Madras, by (1) The Hon'ble Mr. V. V. Giri, Labour Minister, Madras; (2) K. O. Antony, Esq., M.L.C.; and (3) K. P. Ramaswamy, Esq.

Ramaswami: This is an age of freedoms. The latest prescription for the world's ills consists of the four new freedoms: freedom from food, freedom from fuel, freedom from habitation and freedom from freedom. I wonder what you think of that.

Antony: This new recipe must have emanated from a cynic. Freedom from freedom! It is tantamount to absolute regimentation and the worst form of totalitarianism.

Giri: I quite agree with Antony. Liberty is often mistaken for licence. But freedom which recognises the rights of others to equal freedom is essential.

R: But what kind of a freedom is it which allows people to think that they are free to do whatever they like irrespective of the consequences to society and other individuals. Take strikes for example.

G: Well, it has been a matter of grave concern. For instance, we had as many as 208 industrial disputes. Of these 140 were settled by the intervention of the Labour Department, while 5 were settled by conciliation and 12 by adjudication. A few still await settlement.

R: Is it not rather strange that this strike fever should have started almost at the same time as this Government assumed office?

G: That is easily explained. The Adviser-regime concentrated only on war-effort. Their sole objective was optimum production. Strikes were just not tolerated. The workers also had a fear-complex. But every repression must have a reaction. Immediately the popular Government took office there was an outburst of pent-up feelings.

A: Nor is this a new phenomenon. That is exactly what the Blum Government in France and President Roosevelt's administration in the U.S.A. experienced.

R: I have been told that all these strikes were not due to economic causes. I wonder if there is any substance in this charge.

G: I believe that view is shared by several others.

A: Another regrettable feature is that quite a number of strikes have taken place without notice. It is only fair that strikes or lock-outs should be declared only after giving notice provided for by law. This I say is not only in the interests of the parties directly concerned but in the public interests as well.

G: The Congress Government of Madras made it clear in the year 1937 and again reiterated it in 1946 that it was not their intention to curtail the rights of the workers in any way. They also made it clear that they feel it incumbent on them to declare that all available methods of representation should be exhausted before resorting to direct action; and that they would always encourage internal settlement of disputes by bringing employers and workers together whenever issues arose between them.

A: That brings us to the question as to who are really concerned in a strike or a lock-out? Is it only the employer and the worker? To my mind, the community is an equally important party. It has its own interests to safeguard. If that is so in normal times, it is much more so now when almost all the necessaries of life are controlled or rationed. This creates both a right and a responsibility for the public to intervene in a trade dispute. I would like to see a body of independent, enlightened citizens studying every industrial dispute and educating the public on the case for the workers as well as the employers.

R: I am substantially at one with Antoni there. The public has a lot at stake in industrial warfare and they must have their say especially when it menaces the life of the community. Strikes in the health and safety industries are not like strikes in other forms of enterprise.

A: There is some criticism that Government machinery is much too slow. Is there any basis in this?

G: A certain minimum delay is sometimes inevitable in the movement of the Government machinery, but speaking broadly I think there has been no avoidable delay.

A: There is one other aspect of the strike which I think we cannot ignore. That is the element of violence. We have recently had manifestations of violence in strikes and the use of force by Government. No doubt when strikes occur, feelings are roused. The workers are agitated and if some workers go to work, violence may result. But if there is one distinct contribution that our country could make to the conduct of strikes it should be the complete elimination of violence in strikes from whichever quarter.

R: I am in entire agreement with Antoni. As the Chinese proverb says, "He that rides the tiger cannot lie down with the lamb."

G: I personally do not believe in violence in any of our struggles, political, social or economic. The several strikes that I have conducted consistently observed non-violence. The workers stand to gain sympathy and support by observing non-violence.

A: Closely allied to this question is that of picketing. Non-violent persuasion I can understand, but I wonder if all picketing is really carried on in a non-violent manner.

G: Picketing to be lawful must be peaceful and non-violent in the real sense. So long as this is done there should be no interference on the part of the Police or other concerned authorities. That is the Government's attitude.

R: You mentioned in the last session of the Legislature that you were contemplating comprehensive legislation for amelioration of labour conditions and particularly for the investigation and settlement of trade disputes.

A: Subsequently didn't you see from the papers that the Central Government had taken upon themselves this and other labour legislation? Mr. Giri may be able to give us some enlightenment on these matters.

G: This is pertinent. The results of the Labour Ministers' Conference held in Delhi on the 14th and 15th October constitute a landmark in the history of labour legislation in India. Both Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Viceroy's Executive Council, and Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Labour Member of the Government of India, were emphatically of the opinion that labour legislation should be Central and based upon the greatest common measure of agreement among the Provinces, so that no Province may have any difficulty in enforcing or applying it. The Madras Government contemplated introduction of the following bills in the local Legislature:

1. The Trade Disputes Bill.
2. Madras Maternity Benefit Act Amendment Bill.
3. Minimum Wages Bill.
4. Agriculture Wages Bill.
5. The Madras Shops and Establishments Bill.
6. The Madras Non-power Factories Bill.

As the provisions of the first four Bills will be nearly the same as the Centre's proposals, they have been dropped. The other two will be taken up for consideration at the next session of the legislature. Besides these two, courts of enquiry are now functioning to enquire into the conditions of service of workers in the textile industry, beedi and cigarette factories, and tanneries, with a view to the improvement of labour conditions in all aspects. (For details see *Madras Information*, No. 4, dated 16-11-1946. Ed.)

R: Mr. Giri, legislation alone will not bring industrial peace. Fundamentally, the problem of good industrial relations is not one that can be solved by legislation, punitive or otherwise. It can only be solved by a fair, intelligent and judicial approach on both sides, through honesty in facing facts and a free exchange of information, through good procedures for settling grievances which prevent small differences from becoming large issues, and through spread of enlightenment and recognition of the social necessity of industrial peace. The problems are both psychological and economic. The responsibility of the Government is to define rights and duties fairly and to protect Labour and to protect Management in equal proportions.

A: To my mind this is essentially a human problem. I do not believe in the so-called class-conflicts. What is needed in most cases is a change in the attitude of employers towards the workers. They have to have a real caring for them. This does not mean appeasing. The more employers insist on their rights, the more Government will find it necessary to legislate. William Penn once said, "If men are not governed by God, they will be ruled by tyrants". As an American employer said, "Employers must realise that there is doubt and distrust. They must be replaced by trust and confidence." There is a good deal of scope for peace if employers and workers get together and discuss problems around the table, not as master and men but as equal parties. From my experience I have found that the Works Committee movement can do a great deal in settling differences between employers and workers.

G: I have always believed in the settlement of disputes by the parties themselves.

R: But does not the proposed Central Bill provide not only for conciliation but also for adjudication? I thought you held the view that compulsion in the settlement of trade disputes is not sound in principle.

G: I am a believer in courts of enquiry and conciliation rather than in arbitration and adjudication. But in our country trade unionism is still in its infancy and the workers have yet to know the complete technique of negotiations. The employers must be in greater touch with the psychology of workers and their organisations and the trade union leaders must be thorough with the technical side of the industry and also understand when to concede and when to demand. In short, tact is wanting on both sides which could only be secured by experience.

A: There must be, in other words, greater understanding in the relations between employers and workers. The employer must recognize the human needs of the worker and must pay him a fair wage, ensure decent working conditions and treat him as a partner in a common enterprise. The worker on his part must also do his duty by his employer and give him an honest day's work. The State must recognise that the worker is its first care.

R: That is just the point that I, too, want to stress. As Antoni said there is a good deal more that employers speaking generally have to do for the worker. But trade unions

(Contd. on page 34)

IRRIGATION SITES IN S. KANARA & MALABAR

PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER'S INSPECTION TOUR

The Hon'ble Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister of Public Works and the Hon'ble Sri K. R. Karant, Minister of Revenue, recently toured the South Kanara District and inspected the various sites where irrigation and highways work has been taken up or is required to be taken up. There are about 21 irrigation schemes under investigation at present. These schemes deal with exclusion of salt water from irrigated lands, improvements to tanks, reclamation of swamps, construction of anicuts and excavation of channels.

The whole district is mostly hilly and the scheme may not be so remunerative as in the plains. To increase the food production in the districts, the schemes may have to be carried out in spite of their poor return.

Mr. Bhakatavatsalam inspected also the minor ports at Mulki, Malpe, Coondapoor, etc., for development of coastal navigation.

Malabar District

From South Kanara the Minister for Public Works went to Malabar and toured the district to inspect the sites for irrigation schemes at Thiruvangad, Vadakkampad, Ayinkad, Payyoli, Elavanna and other villages, the Enamakkal dam and also the sites for the Malampuzha and Walayar Reservoir projects. A number of memorials relating to irrigation schemes and road works were presented to the Minister.

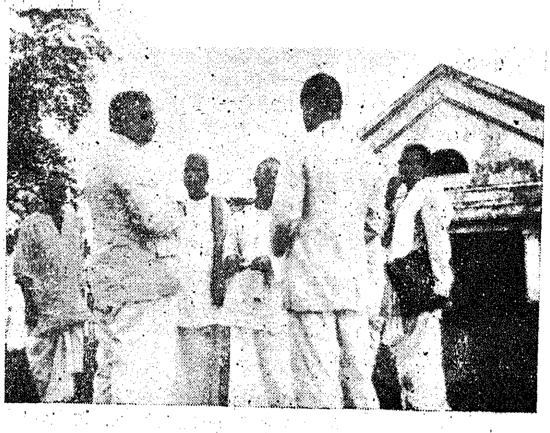
There are, at present, about 37 schemes under investigation, of which the biggest is the Malampuzha reservoir project which is expected to irrigate more than 40,000 acres at a cost of nearly 2 crores of rupees, with possibilities of developing hydro-electric power. Other schemes relate to construction of reservoirs, anicuts and channels, bunds to conserve water and exclude salt water, and reclamation of the several swamps in the District, etc.

The schemes are comparatively costly but to make the District self-supporting, they may have to be executed in spite of their comparatively poor return.

CONNEMARA PUBLIC LIBRARY
22 DEC 19..
MADRAS

A chadugudu tournament recently held in Salem.

Mr. M. Bakthavatsalam at Malampuzha, Palghat.



Mr. Raghava Menon at Palghat.

FIGHTING BACK THE FAMINE

STORY UNFINISHED—BUT END IN SIGHT

UNTIL recently the stock of rice available for distribution in the Province has been falling steadily. At the beginning of June 1946 it was 429,000 tons. The situation eased slightly early in August owing to the first bonus and the cut in the rice ration, but this only lasted for two weeks and then the fall continued. By the middle of September the total stocks went down to 223,000 tons which is about 6 weeks' requirements of ration shops and establishments. The lowest point was reached in the middle of October when the figure was 173,000 tons. Thereafter there was a sharp rise till 7th November when the stocks reached 275,000 tons. This was due to the September-October harvests combined with the appeal by the Hon'ble the Prime Minister and the special bonus. Since then, however, the fall again set in and by 21-11-46 the stock was back to 250,000 tons. However with the season now definitely a favourable one and the main harvests in the Northern surplus districts on the point of starting, it can be said that the danger period for this year is over. The most critical time was towards the end of September and in October.

Below Safety Margin

It is usually considered that for safety there should be stocks in hand equivalent to 6 weeks' actual requirements. The stocks in the Province were below this figure from the third week of September until the end of October. Moreover, these figures are for the Province as a whole and in the deficit districts the picture was much grimmer. Naturally the surplus districts and to some extent the surplus parts of deficit districts had to be allowed to keep enough to last them until the next harvest so that though the provincial stocks might on paper appear to be sufficient for 5 or 6 weeks, they would not in fact be sufficient to keep deficit areas fed for anything like so long. In fact from August onwards there always used to be not less than four districts, excluding Madras City, which had only stock for less than a month. By the beginning of September this number rose to 7, and by October to 9, after which, with the harvest on the West Coast and in Madura and Trichinopoly, the number fell again. And among these districts there were usually one or two which had only under two weeks' supplies, while a majority had only less than 3 weeks' supplies.

Universal Rationing

There is one reason and one reason only why these deficit districts were able to survive so many weeks with rice stocks far below the safety level. That reason is the universal application of rationing. In the first place universal rationing enabled Collectors to judge accurately the amount of rice needed in each village and consequently in each wholesale depot. Knowing this they could distribute their small stocks over the depots to the best advantage. They knew to what point the better stocked depots could be allowed to fall and above what point it was essential to maintain the poorer depots. They could direct the imports to the places where they were most needed and if necessary even transfer stocks from one depot to another within the district. Secondly, they could maintain rationing with a much smaller reserve than would be necessary to avoid famine if distribution were uncontrolled. It was definite that no one could buy more than a week's needs during the week and that consequently no ration shop would need to be supplied with more than a week's requirements. This in turn meant that a wholesale depot could just manage as long as it had stocks to meet one week's demand from the ration shops attached to it. In practice, of course, more than a week's supply in a wholesale depot is necessary as the receipts into the depot from outside the district are likely to come irregularly; but still as long as a week's supply was there rationing would continue to work normally.

Public Confidence Maintained

The third and not the least important result of universal rationing was the maintaining of public confidence at a very high level. Nowhere in the province was there ever any panic no matter how low the district stocks had fallen. People had confidence that the Government would maintain rationing, that rationing would assure everyone a fair share of food and at least the minimum necessary to keep them alive, and that before the situation became worse they would receive some warning in the shape of

(Continued on Page 33)

FOOD SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE

For the Fortnight Ending 15-11-46

Rainfall

DURING the fortnight the North-East monsoon established itself everywhere except in the extreme north of the Presidency. Rainfall was widespread and heavy in nearly all districts. Tanks and irrigation sources have received ample supplies, the river Pennar recording the greatest depth known in the last 30 years. If further rain comes, the season should be a normal one.

The water level in the Mettur Reservoir was 120.75 feet on 15-11-46 as against 51.15 feet on 15-11-45.

Prices

There was no perceptible change in the prices of foodgrains and pulses during the fortnight. There was a further slight fall in the price of chillies. As regards oils, oilseeds, etc., the position was as follows:—

Groundnut oilcake ..	No change.
Gingelly seed ..	Slight fall.
Groundnut (Shelled), Copra Coconut Oil, Gingelly Oil and cotton-seed ..	Slight increase.
Gingelly oilcake ..	An increase of 18.7%

As a result of the decision to decontrol jute in Bengal, the price of gunnies has increased sharply in this Province and extra allowances had to be allowed to millers, thus slightly increasing the price of rice.

Procurement

115,096 tons of paddy and rice in terms of rice and 5,838 tons of millets were procured in the fortnight ending 31-10-46. This represents a further considerable rise in procurement over the figures for the two previous fortnights.

The total paddy and rice procurement which is four times higher than the preceding fortnight is due to the harvesting of the short-term paddy crops, the delivery of which was accelerated by the bonus of Rs. 2 per maund offered by the Madras Government up to the end of October.

Imports

During the fortnight under review the following quantities of cereals and pulses were imported from sources outside the Province.

(i) Receipts from other Provinces and States.

Rice ..	9,421 tons.
Millets ..	437 "
Wheat & Wheat Products ..	Nil "
Pulses ..	6,446 "
Comprising Redgram ..	1,696 "
Blackgram ..	697 "
Greengram ..	Nil "
Bengalgram ..	4,053 "

(ii) Imports from Overseas and abroad:—

Rice ..	15,375 tons.
Millets ..	Nil "
Maize ..	Nil "
Wheat ..	51,535 "
Wheat products ..	Nil "
Barley ..	Nil "

Supply and Stock Position of Foodgrains

The closing stock of rice in the Province on 14-11-46 was 265,367 tons as against 226,467 tons on 31-10-46. The increase was mainly due to procurement of short-term paddy the harvesting of which is in progress. Owing to heavy rains transport of paddy and rice from the main Provincial supplying sources viz. Tanjore district to deficit districts was hampered as a result despatches to many districts, particularly the Central Districts was greatly behind schedule. The delay in the arrival of S.S. "Thistledale" carrying Brazil rice and the threat of the diversion of its cargo to Mysore complicated the supply arrangements to Madras and the Central Districts. The rain also retarded milling operations in Tanjore and the Circars. In Madras City the stock position became precarious and caused anxiety for a while, but is showing improvement with the arrivals of Central Provinces and Orissa rice.

Millets

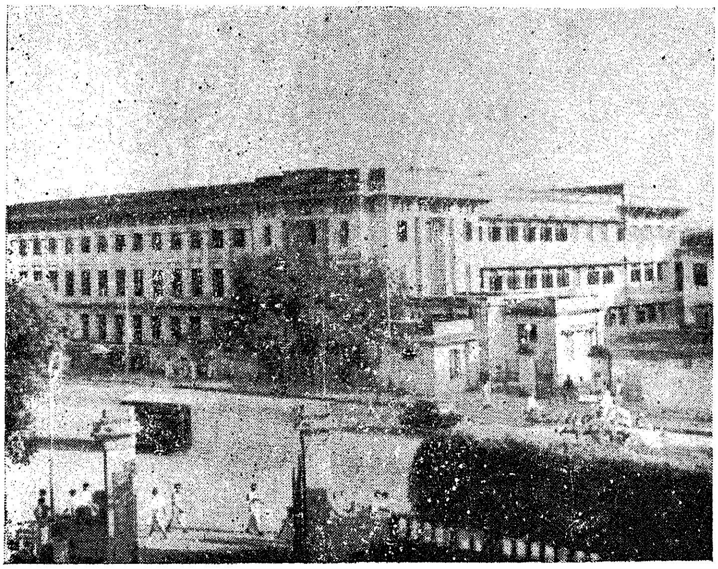
Stocks of millets decreased slightly to 26,624 tons, representing rather less than 1½ months' stocks. The "Fort Walsh" carrying 5,000 tons of Argentine millets has since arrived at Tuticorin on the 18th November. Imports from Gwalior continued to be slow. The stock position is low in Coimbatore, Ramnad, Salem and Guntur districts.

(Continued on Page 34)

MADRAS IN PICTURES--II

(Central Station and People's Park Areas)

22DEC
MADRAS

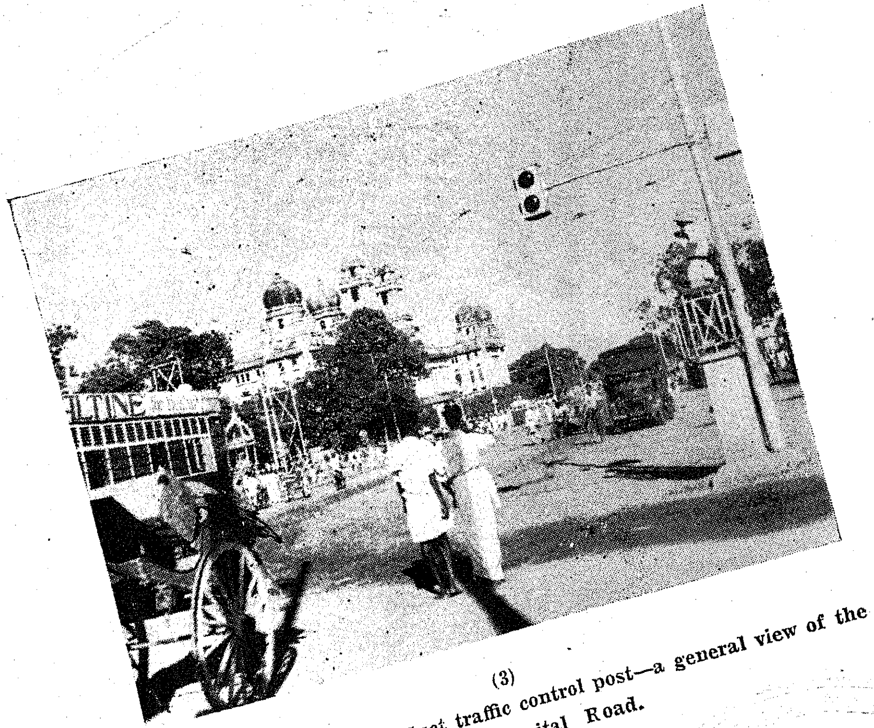


(1)

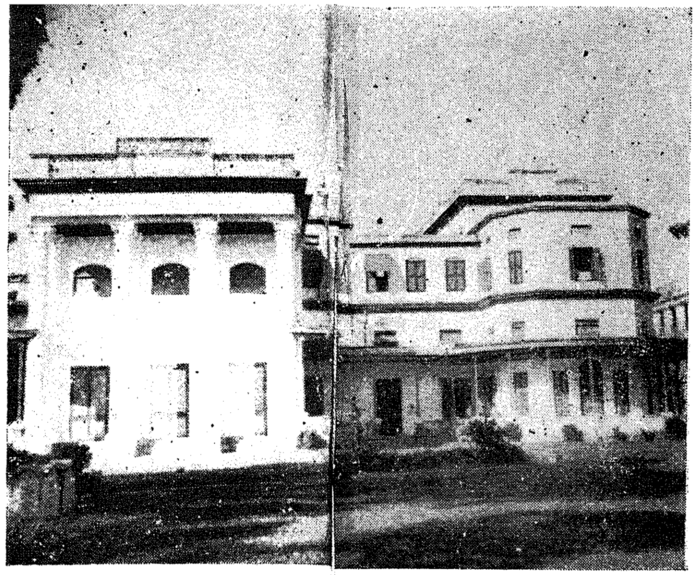
Medical College.

(2)

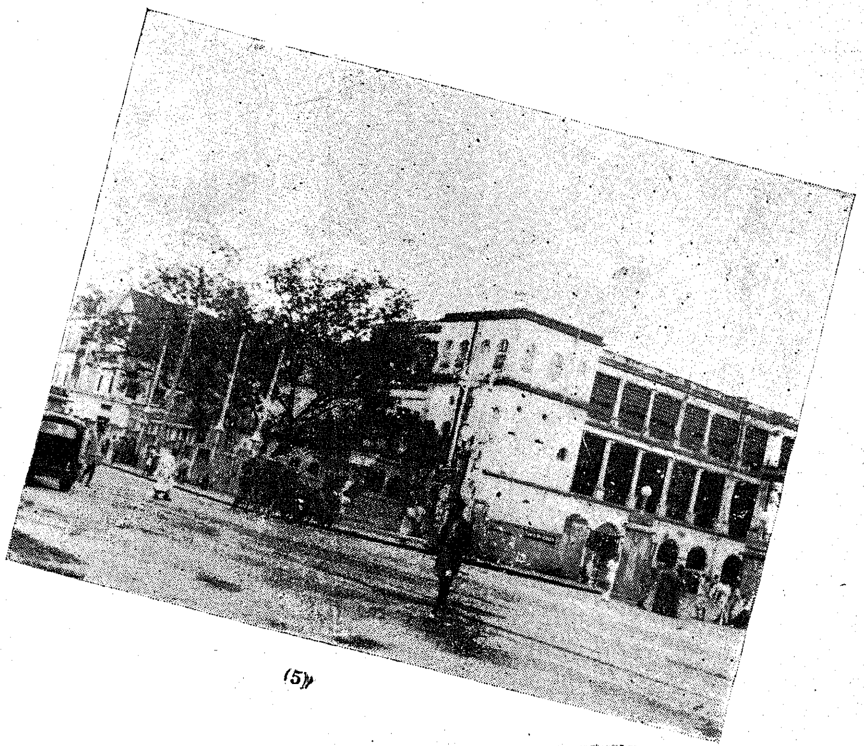
**M. & S. M. Railway
Head-quarters Office.**



(3)
The Stanley Viaduct traffic control post—a general view of the General Hospital Road.



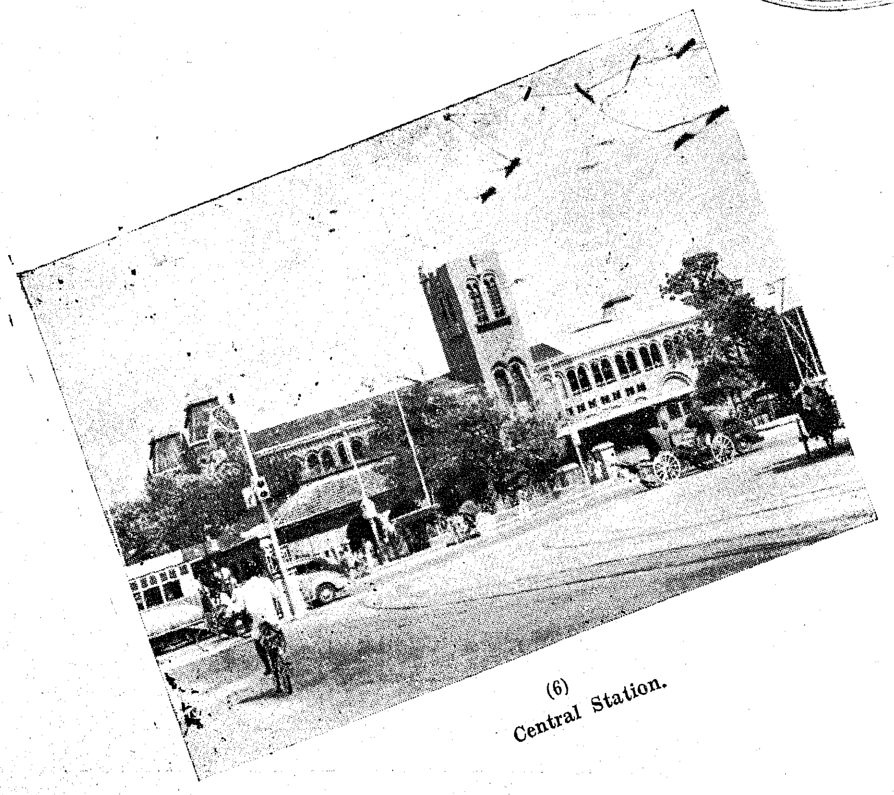
Two different vief the General Hospital.



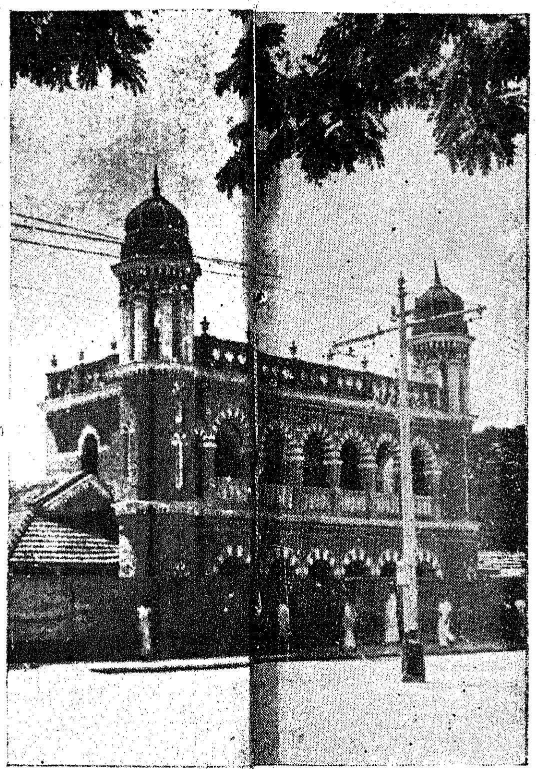
(5)

22 DEC
MADRAS

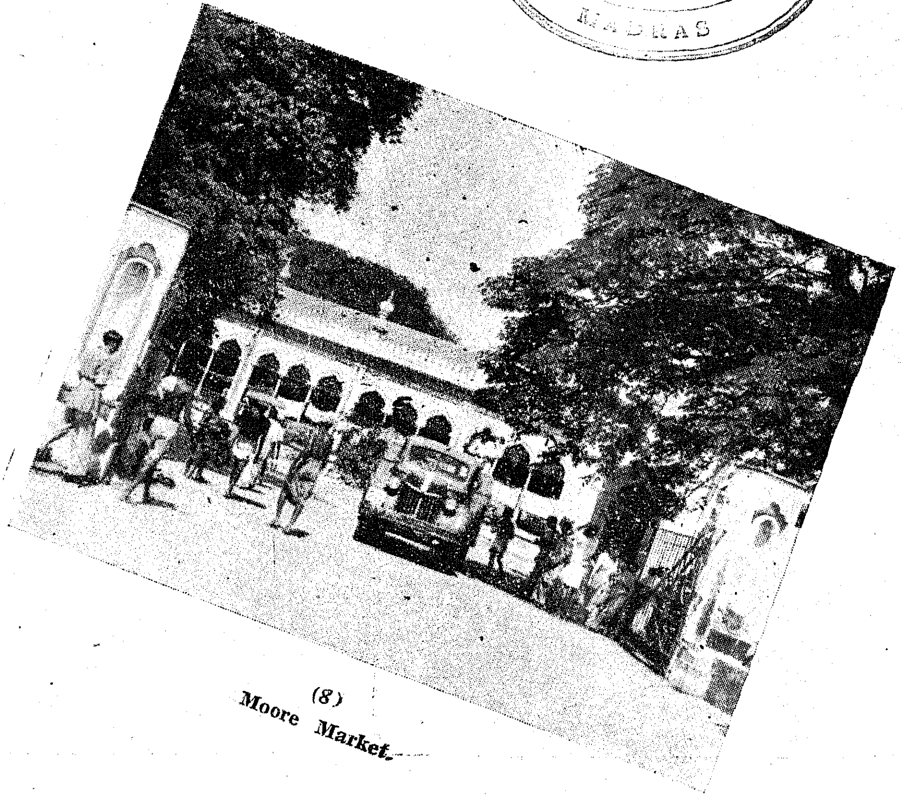
22 DEC
MADRAS



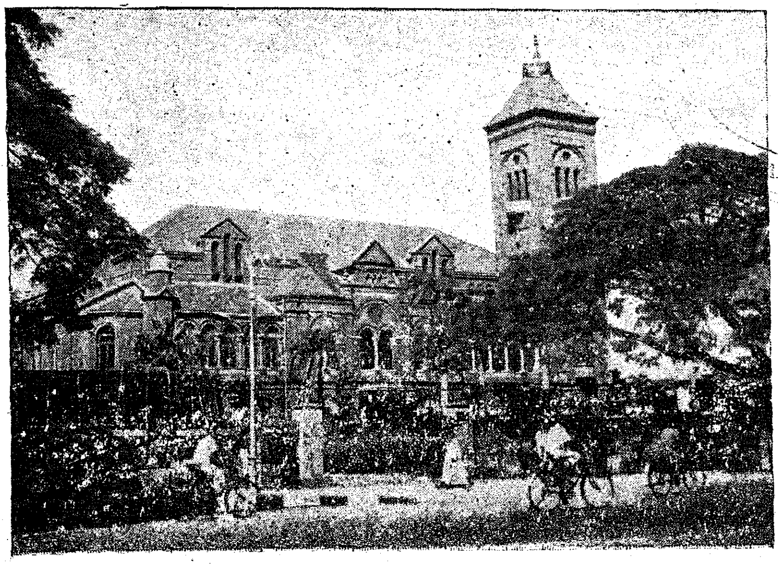
(6)
Central Station.



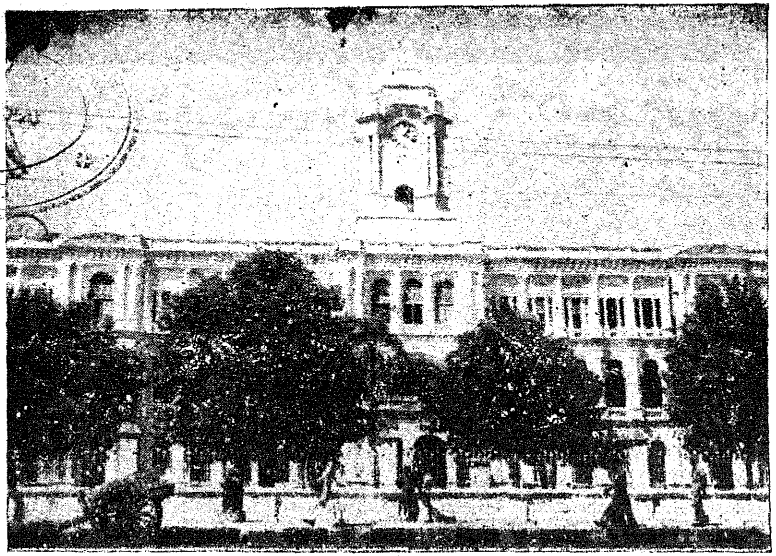
Rajah Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar Choultry.



(8)
Moore Market.

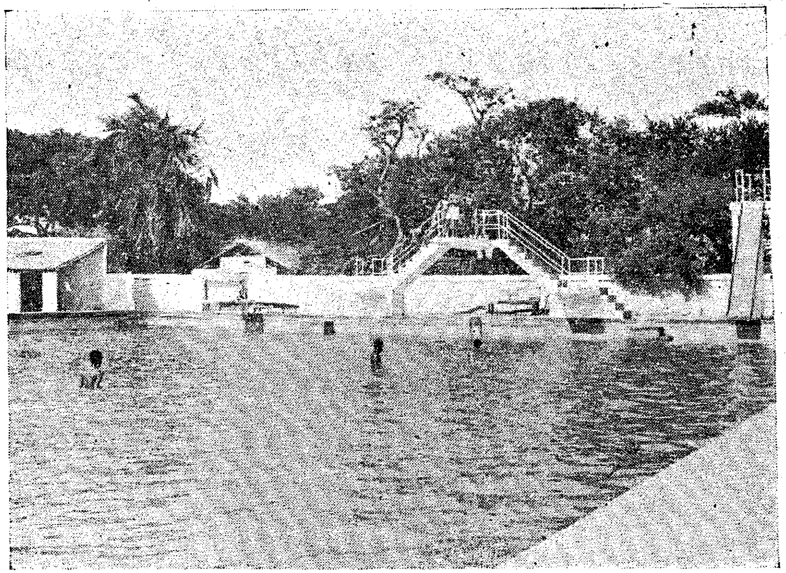


(9)
Victoria Public Hall.



(10)
Ripon Buildings—Corporation Office.

(11)
Entrance to the Zoo.



(12)
The Swimming Pool—People's Park.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AT WORK

—x—

I. AGRICULTURE

The following is a report on the Free Distribution of Manures in Malabar and South Kanara.

In G.O. No. Ms. 151-Food dated 2nd April, 1946, the Government sanctioned the free distribution of groundnut cake and ammonium sulphate for the first crop of paddy in Palghat and Walluvanad taluks of Malabar and Kasargod taluk in South Kanara district. The dose proposed per acre was 2 cwts. of groundnut cake and 56 lbs. ammonium sulphate. On the basis of the normal area under paddy in these three taluks sown in April, May, June, the estimated quantities required to cover the entire area were

Groundnut cake	..	28,200 tons
Amônium Sulphate	..	7,050 „

Object of the Scheme

The object of the scheme was:

(1) To secure additional supplies of paddy stocks by October or November. The prospects of early and timely kuruvai sowings were definitely uncertain in the Tanjore area owing to the very low level of the Mettur reservoir. In the Godavaries early first crops like Rasangi and Basangi come to maturity at a time when there was the risk of cyclone damage even if the timely supply in the rivers could be depended upon. The West Coast is the only region where monsoon rains may not be expected to fail and the risk of damage by cyclone is the least.

(2) The West Coast districts are heavily in deficit in paddy.

(3) The earliest sowings of paddy are in the West Coast with the advent of mango showers in April.

(4) For various reasons the cultivators in the West Coast are not accustomed to the manuring of paddy with fertilisers. If, therefore, a campaign of manure supply and distribution was launched, there were reasonable prospects of securing by October and November the sorely needed increase in paddy production and of educating the ryot to the advantage of using manures and fertilisers.

Distribution

Since the transport and distribution of manures had to be done in a short period from the middle of May to the end of June the students of the Agricultural College were also engaged as propagandists in the campaign.

The actual quantities of manures distributed were as follows:

Quantities in nearest ton.

	Malabar. (tons)	S. Kanara. (tons)	Total. (tons)
Groundnut cake ..	11,761	3,844	15,606
Ammonium Sulphate ..	3,393	964	4,357
Fish Manure ..	..	2	2

The area for which manures were distributed was:

Malabar	..	134,867 acres.
S. Kanara	..	39,100 „
Total	..	173,967 „

There was a good demand for groundnut cake in Palghat taluk. The entire quantity of groundnut cake that could be supplied to

Palghat area was disposed of. The demand from the ryots in Walluvanad and Kasargod was not so keen as that from the ryots of Palghat. As the use of Ammonium Sulphate was new to the West Coast the ryots there were generally averse to its application.

		Number of ryots to whom manures were supplied.
Palghat taluk	..	15,665
Walluvanad taluk	..	12,374
Kasargod taluk	..	15,647
Total	..	43,686

About 70% of the ryots in Palghat taluk and 34% in Walluvanad taluk took advantage of the free distribution.

Season: The rainfall during the period June to September was unusually heavy. During AUGUST when the crop was in flower 39.14 inches of rain was recorded in Kasargod against 14.49 inches in the corresponding month in 1945. The low-lying lands especially on the sides of the rivers, were reported to have been badly affected by floods. Due to the heavy rains in the flowering period the setting of the grains was affected.

Crop Cutting Experiments

In order to evaluate the effect of manuring on the crop yields, the district staff was instructed to carry out actual crop cuttings and take weights of both grain and straw.

The number of plots from which the crop was cut for weighment was:

		Manured.	Unmanured.
Malabar:			
Palghat taluk	..	64	64
Walluvanad Taluk	..	116	72
S. Kanara:			
Kasargod Taluk	..	111	89
Total	..	291	225

Size of each plot 10 cents.

The average yields of grain and straw per acre of manured and unmanured or those plots in which local manures were used and the percentage of increase in straw and grain are tabulated below.

Increase of Grain

The average increase of dry paddy per acre in Palghat taluk was 499 lbs. or 34.5% over the yield of usual local manured or unmanured plots. In Walluvanad taluk the increase of grain per acre due to manuring was 455 lbs. or 31.5% over the unmanured plots. In Kasargod taluk the average increase was only 235 lbs. or 15.3%.

Increase of Straw

In Palghat taluk the average increase of straw per acre was 1,421 lbs. or 46%.

In Walluvanad taluk the average increase was only 464 lbs. or 27.5%.

In Kasargod taluk there was an increase of 261 lbs. of straw per acre or 10.9%.

On the above basis the increase in production of grain and straw in the areas where the manures were distributed is estimated as follows:

Estimated increased production due to free distribution

Grain:

Taluk	Area manured. Acres.	Estimated increase in grain. Tons.	Value of the increased produce. Rs.
Palghat	99,265	22,113	at Rs. 1-5-0 per 16 2/3 lbs. or Rs. 177-4-0 per ton
Walluvanad	35,603	7,232	
Kasargod	39,100	4,102	
Total:	173,968	33,447	Rs. 59,28,480

Straw:

Taluk	Area manured. Acres.	Estimated increase. Tons.	Value
Palghat	99,265	63,415	Straw at Re. 1 per 75 lbs. or Rs. 29-14-0 per ton
Walluvanad	35,603	7,375	
Kasargod	39,100	4,556	
Total:	173,968	75,346	Rs. 22,50,962

Expenditure on Manures

Tons	Rs.
15,605 groundnut cake at Rs. 140 per ton	2,184,700
4,357 ammonium sulphate at Rs. 250 per ton	1,089,250
2 Fish manure at Rs. 60 per ton	120
Total: Rs.	32,74,070

II. LABOUR

Labour situation during the fortnight ending 15th November, 1946.

On the representation of several organisations of textile workers that they should be given an interim relief by increase in basic wages, dearness allowance, and bonus, the Government have in G.O. No. 4153 Development, dated 6th November 1946, referred the question of the need for the interim relief to textile workers, pending the result of the Court of Enquiry, to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, for adjudication. The adjudicator is now touring in Coimbatore District.

The Commissioner of Labour and the Deputy Secretary to Government, Development Department, left for Bombay on 10th November 1946 to study the labour set-up there.

The Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories who has been deputed by Government to attend the Conference of Chief Inspectors of Factories convened by the Government of India, Labour Department, has left for Delhi on 15th November 1946. The following subjects will be discussed at the conference:

(i) International Labour Organisation's questionnaire on factory inspection.

(ii) Strength of the factory inspectorate.

(iii) Organisation of a training course for factory inspectors.

(iv) Consideration of the draft of revised Factories Act.

(v) Industrial museum.

(vi) Functions of the Chief Adviser, Factories Organisation.

Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya who was appointed as the sole member of the Conciliation Board to settle the dispute between the rickshaw pullers and the rickshaw owners in Madras City has submitted his report to Government. He has also sent his award as adjudicator of the dispute between the management of the City Motor Service Ltd., Madras, and their workers.

Coimbatore Workers.

The Coimbatore Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd., Coimbatore, which were closed from 12th September, 1946, on account of the workers who are under the influence of the Communists resorting to strikes and violence inside the factory as a protest against the recruitment by the management of workers who are not amenable to Communist influence, were reopened on 1st November, 1946, with police protection. As the Communist workers staged a stay-in strike they were dismissed and the workers were required to give an undertaking that they would work properly inside the mills. About 1,000 out of 3,000 workers in the A. & B. Mills of the factory attended on 9th November, 1946. On 11th November, 1946, the Communist Union organised violent picketing which led to serious rioting in which the workers of Kaleeswara and Somasundara Mills and the Brooke Bond Company joined by forcing their way out of their factories during working hours. The police had to open fire and the District Magistrate passed curfew orders (9 p.m. to 6 a.m.) in the industrial area around C.S. & W. Mills for 15 days from 11th November, 1946. The C.S. & W. Mills are now working with about 20 per cent of the workers, but the Kaleeswara and Somasundara Mills and the Brooke Bond Co., have declared a lock-out till normal conditions are restored.

The Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation Ltd. which was closed from 16th September, 1946 on account of the strike organised by the Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation Ltd. Labour Union, of which Sri M. Surendran is the President, was reopened on 2nd November, 1946. The Management and the Union have come to a settlement in the presence of Sir N. Gopalaswamy Iyengar, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

In the Nellimerla Jute Mills there was a partial strike of workers of the sewing section owing to a private quarrel between the men and women workers of the section, from 22nd October, 1946 to 4th November, 1946. The workers have again gone on strike on 11th November, 1946, demanding that the duties of the machine-sewers and hand-sewers should be clearly defined. The Labour Officer, Vizagapatam, and the Sub-Collector, Vizianagaram, are looking into the matter.

The workers of the Madura Mills, Tuticorin struck work on 31st October 1946 as a protest against the suspension of a worker who refused to do the work allotted to him. The management insisted on an assurance from the Union that the workers would do the work allotted to them and the mill was reopened on 5th November, 1946.

(Continued on Page 27)

RE-SETTLEMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN

PROGRESS OF WORK IN DISTRICTS

THE work of resettlement of ex-servicemen is being carried on vigorously. The following are a few facts and figures from the reports of work in the various districts of the province.

Bellary

In Bellary, 28 men have been helped to find appointment in the month of October. During the fortnight ending 15-11-1946, 12 men have been secured appointments, thus bringing the total number to 271. Eleven candidates have been selected as constables. The land colony at Pullampet is being got ready.

East Godavari

In the East Godavari District, 2 land colonies, at Komaragiripatnam and Kandikuppa have been started. There are 50 members in the former and 33 in the latter. 46 acres of land have been transplanted with paddy I crop; but due to want of adequate water supply, the crop is not thriving. Subsidiary occupations such as spinning, fishing, and carpentry have also been introduced. Out of the 1,592 men who have been registered in this district, 545 have been absorbed in general employment.

S. Arcot

44 men have been given employment during this period, in the S. Arcot District.

Salem

In Salem, about 600 acres have been transplanted with paddy (Samla) under the Manivilandan Land Colonisation scheme. One clerk and 12 peons have been appointed from among ex-servicemen, while 53 have been selected as constables.

Tinnevelly

Out of 4,277 men who have registered themselves in Tinnevelly District, 1,439 have obtained appointments up to the end of 15-11-1946. 216 men have joined the Labour Contract Society. It is proposed to entrust the construction of the Resettlement office to the Society.

Madura

554 out of 2,063 who have registered have been settled in suitable appointments in the district of Madura.

N. Arcot

In North Arcot, 6 more men have been absorbed in Government jobs.

Chingleput

346 men out of 1,996 registered, have so far been placed in civil employment in Chingleput district. 42 acres have been cultivated under the Meyyur-Gudapakkam Ex-Servicemen's Co-operative Agricultural Colonisation Society.

South Kanara

The number of men for whom appointments have been secured in the South Kanara District is 3,647 leaving 974 persons yet to be placed.

Madras City

In the city of Madras, the number of ex-servicemen registered upto 15-11-1946 is 509. Out of these 49 have been absorbed in the various offices in the city. There is no land colonization scheme in the city.

Trichy

Out of 18 ex-servicemen who registered at Trichy, 15 have been re-settled.

Tanjore

There are no new schemes promulgated by Government during the fortnight. The Radio Sales and Service Societies which the Government are considering to start have not yet taken any definite shape.

Five more applicants have joined the land colony as temporary members.

The second session of the short-term course in the Hood Co-operative Institute, Tanjore is expected to begin by about the beginning of January, 1947, and orders of the Government are awaited in the matter. This would train the ex-servicemen for suitable jobs.

Guntur

The Resettlement office here has begun to function as a Branch Employment Office with effect from 15-11-1946. 95 men have been registered.

Vizagapatam

4 ex-servicemen have been placed in Government jobs.

Anantapur

A colony covering 1,006 acres has been started at Siddaramapuram. It can accommodate 67 colonists.

468 men out of 836 registered have been employed through the Resettlement Office.

TIRUCHENDUR TEMPLE THROWN OPEN TO HARIJANS

EDUCATION MINISTER'S OPENING SPEECH

THROWING open the famous Subrahmanniar Temple in Tiruchendur to the Harijans and hitherto excluded communities, Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Minister of Education, said that it was an event which would gladden the hearts of millions of people in this Province. He continued, "The Government hope that this will be the starting point for the opening of all the other temples which are still putting a bar upon their brother Hindus from worshipping their Gods."

"It is unfortunate that the name of our glorious religion has been tarnished by this very unholy custom. I have no doubt that the new Hinduism that is being born will not tolerate this social injustice towards any portion of its community. What we want today is our consolidation into a single people and a single race in this great country, and God willing, all our social customs should be such as will help us in this great task.

"People have been telling me that apart from throwing open all these temples certain social disabilities which Harijans and some others have in entering public places, such as hotels, wells, tanks, etc., should also be removed by law. I am glad to be able to announce here that the Government are contemplating legislation which will give equality to all people in all public places. But I must add that without the living and earnest co-operation of the people these legislations by themselves cannot be a panacea for all our social evils and I have no doubt that you will kindly give the Government your fullest co-operation in these matters.

"If this great country is to live again and live in glory which was once its special distinction, we must consolidate all that is noblest and best in our own religion. Let us build a society which, while it will cater to the individual needs of persons and communities, will be based on the democratic principle of giving each man the opportunity of developing his own powers to the utmost. Opportunity should be given to every individual to develop his own best and rise to the highest levels of human thought and action. It is such a society that the world wants today and it is such a society that we should build if we are to renovate this great country of ours. The great work that we have done today in throwing open this holy and ancient temple to millions of men and women, who have been anxious to enter it and who have been denied their rights of all these long years, will, I hope, be a small step in this great task of building up a consolidated and unified community in this great land.

(Continued from Page 25)

Disputes in Malabar

About 60 out of 1501 workers of the Commercial Textile Corporation (a hosiery factory in Cannanore) were served with a notice of discharge as the management had to close down the shirting section for want of work. Under the leadership of the Hosiery Labour Congress, the workers have gone on strike from 29th October, 1946 after due notice. On the intervention of the Assistant Commissioner of Labour the management and the President of the Hosiery Labour Congress have come to a settlement on all points in dispute except the need for retrenchment of the 60 workers. The workers were advised to resume work pending the reference of this question to an Expert to be appointed by the Government. The workers have resumed work on 15th November, 1946.

About 170 workers of Messrs. K. P. Neelambi & Sons (Handloom Weaving Factory), Calicut, have struck work from 1st November, 1946, demanding increase in wages, payment of arrears of dearness allowance, reinstatement of a worker, provision of a canteen etc. On the intervention of the Assistant Commissioner of Labour, the parties have come to a settlement on all the points in dispute except an increase of 37½% in their wages. As the increase in wages will involve an increase in the cost of production, the Management are not prepared to consider the demand but they are willing to adopt the schedule of rates of the Calicut Handloom Weavers Association in which there are about 35 handloom factories and to continue to pay the existing rates wherever they are higher. The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

The workers of the Andhra Cement Company, Bezwada, struck work without notice on 29th October, 1946, demanding the reinstatement of a worker. They resumed work on 8th November, 1946, on the advice of the Commissioner of Labour.

The stevedore labourers working in the Madras harbour who struck work on 13th November, 1946, resumed work on 14th November, 1946, on the advice of the Hon'ble Minister of Industries and Labour.

WELFARE OF ABORIGINALS

GOVERNMENT TAKE PRELIMINARY STEPS

THE Aboriginal Welfare Enquiry Committee appointed by the Government of Madras was formally initiated by the Hon'ble the Premier on 19th November in his room. All the members of the Committee were present. After the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. V. Ragavaiah, introduced them to the Premier, the Premier gave them a few words of advice and drew their attention particularly to the various South Indian aboriginal tribes living on mountain tops and in the midst of unhealthy forests, and exhorted the Committee to make a special study of them.

On the morning of November 20th, the Committee again met in the Chairman's room where, by invitation, the Hon'ble the Minister for Revenue and the Hon'ble the Minister for Industries and Labour were present.

The Hon'ble the Minister for Revenue suggested to the Committee that wherever land was available, proposals might be made for colonising the landless aboriginals by means of Land Co-operative Societies and promised full support of the Government in regard to land proposals. He suggested that there was no advantage in trying to draw the aboriginals to the plains and create further unemployment. He observed that all facilities should be afforded to these backward people in their own natural surroundings so that they could preserve their freedom, follow their own modes of life, unfettered by the civilisation of the towns or by the exploitation of the traders. He suggested that co-operative societies could play a large part in their uplift, particularly when the machinery can be harnessed to land reform.

The Hon'ble Mr. V. V. Giri, Minister for Industries and Labour, drew the attention of the Committee to the existence of semi-slavish conditions among the aboriginals like the Gothi system, prevalent in the Godavari Agencies, and invited the members to make a special study of the labour conditions of the aboriginals, their average income, the way they spend it, etc. He also wanted the Committee to suggest ways and means of improving the economic conditions of the aboriginals. He suggested that co-operative loan societies and land colonies may go a long way to reduce their sufferings, increase their literary attainments and enable them to march abreast with their brethren of the plains. The Minister of Labour felt that the Government should be always ready to do their best for the uplift of the oldest of India's inhabitants. Special officers, if necessary, should be appointed to look after their welfare, to safeguard them against exploitation and to promote collective farming. Both the Ministers wished the Committee every success in their work.

The Committee consists of the following members:—

Mr. V. Raghavaiah, Parliamentary Secretary, *Chairman.*

Mr. V. Subbaroyan, I. P., *Secretary.*

Mr. B. S. Murthy, Parliamentary Secretary,

Mr. T. K. T. N. R. Thatachari, M.L.A.

Mr. L. N. Rao, Member, Servants of India Society, Chalapuram, Calicut.

Mr. K. Kelappan, President, Kerala Provincial Congress Committee, Calicut.

Mr. U. Muthuramalinga Thevar, M.L.A., Ramnad.

Dr. A. Iyappan, Superintendent, Madras Museum (who is a noted anthropologist).

The Committee will commence their tour on the 21st of November. They tour the Andhra Districts till the 2nd December, complete the Ceded Districts between the 7th and 17th of December, and then cover the Tamil Nad and Kerala.

——X——

Rs. 66 CRORES SAVED IN 6 YEARS

SAVINGS CAMPAIGN IN MADRAS PROVINCE

History and Progress So Far

THE Savings Movement was started in this Province in 1940 by a Committee of non-official European businessmen under the auspices of the National Savings Movement, Calcutta. In 1941, the Committee was enlarged so as to include some non-official Indian gentlemen of influence and a few officials. It was named the Provincial Defence Loans Committee, Madras, and was given secretarial and financial assistance by the Government. It was in charge of propaganda and canvassing for Defence Loans which included War Bonds, Interest Free Bonds, Prize Bonds, Collective Subscriptions (that is, lump sum investments on behalf of villages or groups of inhabitants, of monies raised for specific public purposes), and Defence Savings Certificates. As the total subscriptions for all these Defence Savings only amounted to Rs. 7.20 crores for the three years 1940 to 1943 June, the Provincial Defence Loans Committee requested the Government to appoint a full time Special Officer to organise both propaganda and canvassing for Defence Savings in the Province. Accordingly the Government appointed in June 1943 a Defence Loans Commissioner for the purpose. He organised the "Canvassers Scheme"—authorising officials and non-officials to canvass Defence Loans etc., issue receipts, and deposit them in Government Treasuries. Publicity was undertaken for advertising and giving correct information to the public about the nature and advantages of the different classes of "Securities". Advice was given freely to investers on the form of security suitable to them. Thus the total investments in the different securities rose from Rs. 7.20 crores for the period from January 1940 to June, 1943, to Rs. 61.20 crores by the middle of December 1945 when the War Loans were closed.

An Anti-Inflationary Measure

The Defence Savings Certificates were introduced in 1942 as an anti-inflationary measure. These ten-year Defence Savings Certificates which were cashable at any time and carried interest at 3½% (simple) did not serve the purpose well. Nor did it serve as "Savings" in the real sense, as the liberty to cash the certificates at pleasure and to use the money was still there and saving could be made possible only by some restriction on this liberty. Therefore, the Defence Savings Certificates came to be replaced by National Savings Certificates (a more appealing name) which were made non-cashable for a period of three years. These were introduced in October 1943, and were intended to help the small savers. Defence Savings Stamps were also sold which could be bought and affixed on a card until its total value bacame sufficient to buy a certificate. However, it was found difficult to spread this idea among the masses with the aid of the "Canvassers" who were a small number of people doing both propaganda and collection for the big loans as well. Early in 1944 the Government of India decided to organise this work for the benefit of the masses and introduced this "Small Savings Scheme" in all Provinces and States. A separate organisation was provided for making this scheme work at as little a cost as possible. With the end of the War the work for Defence Loans closed and the Defence Loans Commissioner continued to work as Provincial National Savings Officer for Madras Province.

Takes a Permanent Shape

Though the Small Savings Scheme was conceived as a war-time measure, it is now on quite a different footing. Its primary object is the encouragement of the habit of thrift and the Government of India place it in the forefront of their post-war economic and social programme. Its successful working will banish economic insecurity and will enable the poorer sections of the community to escape from the habitual indebtedness which has been the greatest obstacle to economic and social reform. Therefore with the end of the war, the Government of India have now placed the Small Savings Scheme on a permanent footing.

Essentials of the Scheme

The scheme is worked by a system of authorised agents who receive a commission of 2½% on the face value of certificates sold by them. Their services are free to the investers. These authorised agents collect the money from the "savers", issue a temporary receipt, deposit the money in the post office, get the required certificate, and deliver it to the invester taking back the temporary receipt. The commission can be claimed only on the production of the foil with the post office seal and signature in token of having received the certificate. Certificates are issued in denominations of Rs. 5; 10; 50; 100; 500; 1,000 and 5,000. No individual can hold more than Rs. 5,000 at any time in these certificates. These certificates mature after the expiry of 12 years and earn interest at 41/6% simple interest, that is, every Rs. 10 invested becomes Rs. 15 at the end of 12 years. With the introduction of Rs. 5 certificates, the period of non-cashability was reduced to 18 months in the case of such certificates and to 2 years in the case of other denominations. The poor are also enabled to buy these certificates by sale of the Savings Stamps of the value of 4 annas, 8 annas and 1 rupee, which, when sold, are affixed to a Savings Card supplied free and left with the saver. When the stamps accumulate to Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 the invester exchanges it for a certificate. The interest earned on these certificates is Income Tax free.

Organisation

The Provincial National Savings Officer is in charge of the working of the scheme over the whole province. He is assisted by 9 Assistant Circle Officers, one of whom is assigned for Madras City. The province is divided into 8 areas or groups of districts, and to each area is assigned an Assistant Circle Officer. He supervises the working of the scheme in his area and attends to the propaganda work also.

The Madras Government decided that in rural areas, each village headman should be appointed authorised agent with a view to assure the mass contact so necessary for the development of the scheme. Only in urban areas are selected non-officials of character and integrity appointed authorised agents. The Collector of the district is the appointing authority. Receipt books are printed in various colours according to denominations, and each authorised agent is supplied with the necessary receipts books. The Tahsildar of each taluk is the Checking and Issuing Authority for these receipt books. G.O. No. 54 Finance (Ways and Means) dated 10-2-1944 deals with this.

Savings Committees Needed

If the scheme is to be a complete success, it has to be made popular with the assistance of Savings Committees functioning in each district, taluk and village and formation of savings groups on a large scale. In Madras there is at present a Central Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. C. R. Srinivasan, Editor, "Swadesamitran". This Committee is expected to supervise and co-ordinate the working of the district, taluk and village committees wherever they are formed. These committees can work successfully in their turn, only if they are assisted by savings groups formed in each village and town.

The formation of Savings Groups is being attended to now by the Assistant National Savings Officers alone. They are but a handful and cannot cope with the work. The Revenue Department, which alone has a historical connection for over 150 years with the ryots of this province, is regarded by the ryots as a parent department. Without the whole-hearted co-operation of this department, it was found not possible to increase the numbers of Savings Groups. There are now 403 groups consisting of a total of 8,704 members who save Rs. 20,639 each month. For a population of nearly 50 millions, this is but a very modest achievement. The Central Government desire that there should be a group for every village and a number of groups in each town. Though no target is fixed, the ideal is to make people save at 3½ annas per head of the population per month, which would bring nearly Rs. 13 crores a year for this province alone. This large sum would be made available for national reconstruction. The following figures show the progress so far made in the Small Savings Schemes:—

From		Rs.
28-6-1943 to March 1944	..	2,06,080
April 1944 to March 1945	..	2,35,67,090
April 1945 to March 1946	..	1,80,08,010
April 1946 to October 1946	..	1,01,77,230
Total	..	5,19,58,410

The following are the average value of certificates and the number of Rs. 5 certificates sold in the province during the

several months noted below:—

1945		Average value. Rs. A. P.			Number of Rs. 5 certificates sold.
April	..	44	10	0	4,351
May	..	54	0	0	3,461
June	..	73	7	0	2,675
July	..	101	10	0	2,839
August	..	89	8	0	3,139
September	..	76	4	0	3,777
October	..	94	3	0	3,899
November	..	81	12	0	4,670
December	..	97	15	0	4,113
1946					
January	..	118	4	0	3,499
February	..	114	14	0	2,958
March	..	136	13	0	3,564
April	..	138	12	0	2,616
May	..	121	3	0	2,329
June	..	209	13	0	1,324

It will be seen that the number of Rs. 5 certificates sold (which is a fair indication of the progress of the scheme among the poor) was going down since March 1946. The sales by the village headmen were also very unsatisfactory. This was probably due to the preoccupation of the Revenue Department in matters of greater priority, such as food rationing in rural areas, procurement of food and so on. The attitude of the incoming Government was also uncertain at the time. Further the election stood in the way. As soon as normality was felt to be nearing, the Provincial National Savings Officer placed these matters before the Madras Government for their consideration and requested greater co-operation from them with the result that the present Government have also expressed themselves to be keen in advancing the Small Savings Scheme and have issued orders accordingly [G.O. No. 830 Finance (Ways and Means) dated 11-11-1946]. The Board of Revenue have also been requested to implement the scheme in the districts. The Provincial National Savings Officer had an interview with the Commissioner for Prohibition to intensify the scheme in the Prohibition Districts, and he has promised his entire co-operation.

'Savings Week'

The Government of India proposed that each province should this year as in previous years continue to hold the "Small Savings Week or Fortnight", as this has been found to be of the very greatest advantage not only in stimulating investments for a short period but also in arousing interest in the Small Savings Scheme as a measure of permanent economy. The Government of Madras have accordingly decided that a Small Savings Week should be held throughout the province from the 8th to the 14th December 1946, notwithstanding the fact that the food situation in this province would demand much attention from the Revenue Officers this year. The intention is to have an intensive drive to encourage investments in National Savings Certificates and to form Savings Groups for the purpose all over the province.

The last National Savings Fortnight was held from 1st to 15th December 1944. The special efforts succeeded in increasing the sales to Rs. 45 lakhs in that month, nearly three times the sales in the previous months.

Statement of Savings Campaign

DEFENCE SAVINGS:

3% Victory Loan.

3-Year Interest-free Defence Bonds.

5-Year Interest-free Prize Bonds.

National Savings Certificates.

Post Office Defence Savings Bank Deposits.

Post Office Savings Bank Net Deposits.

Cash Certificates.

Collective Subscriptions.

COLLECTIONS:

		Rs.
From June 1940 to June 1943	..	7,19,53,000
From July 1943 to March 1944	..	23,92,11,050
From April 1944 to March 1945	..	15,30,50,568
From April 1945 to March 1946 (Victory Loan closed from 15-12-1945)	..	14,77,20,200
Total	..	61,19,34,818

Defence and National Savings certificates

		Rs.
Defence Savings Certificates: From 28-6-1943 to March 1944	..	2,06,080
National Savings Certificates: From April 1944 to March 1945	..	2,35,67,090
From April 1945 to March 1946	..	1,80,08,010
From April 1946 to 2-11-1946	..	1,01,77,230
Total	..	5,19,58,410

PREMIER DEFENDS TEXTILE POLICY

Sri T. Prakasam, the Prime Minister of Madras, has issued the following statement:—

As indicated in my last Press Statement, there remain only the criticisms based on the alleged repercussions on the production of cotton in the Province to answer. The criticisms advanced on this point may be summed up as follows:

(1) Cultivation of cotton which has made great strides as a result of the expansion of the mill industry will suffer a set back.

(2) The production of the finer varieties of cotton will also receive a set-back.

(3) The cotton growers' profits will be affected and he will be hit hard.

(4) In view of the ban on the erection of new mills the Ceded Districts, in particular, will suffer badly, and the power generated under the Tungabhadra Hydro-Electric Project will go to waste as necessary facilities for any other industry do not exist in the areas served by the project, and the dependence of the local handlooms on yarn imported from outside will be perpetuated.

Point (1) above : This Province like many other areas in India was a large cotton growing tract even before any mills came into existence, and it is incorrect to state that the development of the mill industry has been accompanied by a proportionate increase in the area cultivated with cotton. The following figures will be found instructive in this connection:

Period.	Area under cultivation in this Province.	Yield
1923-24	2.6 million acres	4,80,260 bales (1 bale=400 lbs.)
Normal (pre-war)	2.4 million acres	5,08,210 bales

(The picture would remain substantially the same even if we go back to 1913-1914).

In spite of the mills and the efforts made by the Government to improve the yield of cotton, there has been only a small increase of 27,950 bales during this interval of nearly 20 years. There is, therefore, no reason to apprehend any serious fall in the area under cotton because mills are not encouraged under the textile policy announced by the Government.

The cultivators of the Ceded Districts and other areas where short staple cotton is now grown cannot help doing it. That is their money crop and rotation crop. In the prevailing circumstances of soil and climate, they have no alternative but to grow cotton. What the position will be when the Tungabhadra Irrigation Project comes into being, it is difficult to say with any degree of certainty. But the fact that in spite of the efforts of the Government and of the Indian Central Cotton Committee and the enthusiasm of the public, cotton production did not show an appreciable increase, is a significant pointer.

Point (2) above: The production of the better varieties of cotton has been insufficient to meet the requirements of even the existing mills and the deficit has had to be made good by importing such varieties from outside. I am confident that, in the event of the revival of hand-spinning on a large scale as contemplated by the Government, there will be a great incentive to the production of hand-spun yarn not only out of short staple cotton but also out of the finer varieties of cotton grown in our Province. This is by no means an idle dream. Hand-spun yarn of very fine counts is being produced even now in the Chicacole area, and there is no reason why we should not be able to produce hand-spun yarn out of the better varieties of cotton grown in this Province. In fact, as production of khadi increases and displaces other kinds of cloth, there will be an increasing demand for khadi woven out of the finer varieties of hand-spun yarn. The Government do not, therefore, share the apprehension that the production of the improved varieties of cotton would receive a set-back as a result of the textile policy announced by them.

Point (3) above: Like the other arguments, this must also be examined on the assumption that the Khadi Scheme will be successful as expected by the Government. The mills in this Province are now consuming over six lakhs bales of cotton, while our production is only a little over five lakhs bales and the deficit has to be made good by imports of Egyptian, African, American and other cotton. The demand for, and the price of, cotton depend ultimately on the demand for, and the production of, cloth. There is, therefore, no need to apprehend that, under

the Khadi Scheme, the ultimate aim of which is to give a much higher ration of cloth than now to consumers in this Province, the cotton grower would not be able to secure a fair price for his cotton.

The price of cotton which is a world crop is not determined either in Madras, or Delhi or Bombay or Liverpool. It is determined and controlled in America. The grower of short staple cotton is not, therefore, likely to get a better price than what he is now getting proportionately to the price of long-staple cotton. Even the establishment of mills in the short staple cotton areas, is not likely to benefit because the price of short-staple cotton will still continue to be in proportion to that of the long staple cotton.

Point (4) above: Far from the Khadi Scheme causing particular hardship to the Ceded Districts, it will prove to be a boon to that area if the villagers there co-operate and make it a success. This area grows large quantities of short staple cotton and the marketing of it has been a difficult problem since the entry of Japan into World War II. The revival of hand-spinning in all villages offers the best prospects for the profitable utilisation of the cotton grown in this area. While mills can employ only a negligible fraction of the population of the Ceded Districts, the revival of hand-spinning and weaving of cloth out of such yarn will provide employment on the largest possible scale for the largest number of people. The revival of hand-spinning is also the best way of ending the dependence on mill yarn imported from outside.

It is completely misleading to suggest that facilities for utilising Tungabhadra Power for other industries do not exist in this area. The Government will see to it that all the available power generated under the Tungabhadra Hydro-Electric Project is fully and profitably utilised and the schemes formulated by them in this connection will be announced in due course.

I may add that our experience during the recent war years has shown that the most serious problem in connection with cotton is the large surplus of short staple cotton in this country and that nothing can help in the profitable utilisation of this large quantity of cotton so much as hand-spinning and production of khadi.

To sum up, even apart from the merits of the Khadi Scheme, it is unsound economy to establish more mills while there is not enough cotton to feed the existing mills and with little or no prospect of increase in the production of cotton in the near future.

(Continued from Page 17)

a further cut in the ration. In other words they knew that as long as the ration scale was maintained the Government believed they would be able to continue to supply that quantity of food. It is probably this very high morale which has impressed foreign observers more than anything else.

In the Absence of Rationing. . . !

It is not difficult to picture what would have happened had there been no rationing. In the first place distribution of bulk stocks within a district would have been uneven. Some villages would have enough and to spare while others would be short. The Collector would have had no reliable information to guide him in allotting his imports and it might well have happened that the most vociferous village got the largest supplies regardless of real needs, and at best villages in difficulty might not come to notice until widespread suffering had already begun and even then it would take time before stocks could be found and moved there. The worst evil of all, hoarding and the concealment of stocks, would quickly make its appearance; stocks would be rapidly depleted; there would be a loss of confidence; the public would get panicky and people would scramble to buy up all the rice they could find and afford. Some no doubt would also buy it up to resell at a high price when the shortages became still more pronounced. This in turn would make the situation even worse and it would not take long for it to get entirely out of control. Among the rich a few would prosper exceedingly, others would impoverish themselves trying to live on blackmarket supplies, while the poor would starve.

Austerity to Continue

Without universal rationing and without the confidence of the public which sustained it, in many of our districts famine conditions as known in Bengal in 1943 would undoubtedly have set in. The Government and public of the province may now congratulate themselves on having dealt competently with a very difficult situation. There are still difficulties ahead and until the main harvest has been gathered in, austerity will still be the rule, but the rise of stocks at the end of October can, like the Battle of El Alamein, be called the "end of the beginning".

(Continued from Page 18)

Wheat

The wheat position has improved considerably due to the arrival of 51,535 tons from overseas during the fortnight. The province now has sufficient wheat for two months at the present rate of consumption of 30,000 tons per month. Since no maida was received during the fortnight and only 3,000 tons is expected up to the end of the year, the maida stock position continues to be poor.

Maize

Although no maize was received, stocks rose to 42,726 tons, due to quantities being in transit from ports. The off-take during October was between 9,000 and 10,000 tons. The province therefore has over four months' supplies in stock.

Pulses

Large quantities of Bengal gram continued to be received from Bahawalpur, Sind and Punjab. The stock position of pulses is now generally satisfactory in all districts. Some districts are beginning to report shortage of red gram. The red gram position is not satisfactory since the import quotas are inadequate.

Other Commodities

Shortage of chillies continued in the urban areas of Trichinopoly District. Fuel was reported to be inadequate in parts of Guntur and Anantapur Districts and in the towns of Kumbakonam and Ootacamund. Matches were not easily obtainable in parts of Nellore, West Godavari, Anantapur, Cuddapah, Kistna and Trichinopoly Districts.

ENQUIRIES FROM THE PUBLIC

Clarification of the Government policy has been sought by a reader on the following points:—

Questions

(1) When the Budget was sanctioned for this year in the Legislative Assembly, it was said that each teacher of an Elementary (Aided) School in the Province would get an additional grant of Rs. 2 each per month (Rs. 14 plus 2, Rs. 18 plus 2) from 1st August 1946. It is a surprise that no orders have yet been issued regarding it.

(2) Arrears of Dearness Allowance at Government rate from 1-7-44 have not yet been paid to teachers of the Aided Elementary Schools, whereas all other employees have been paid the said arrears in full by this time.

Answers

(1) The first question is covered by the G.O. No. Ms. 2061 Education, issued on 29th October 1946, the relevant portions of which are given below:—

"The Government direct that the rate of teaching grants for teachers of all grades employed in Aided Elementary Schools and in Elementary Schools under panchayats be increased by Rs. 2 each per mensem with effect from the 1st August 1946.

The Director of Public Instruction is also requested to suggest suitable amendments to the rules relating to the grant of aid to elemenary schools."

(2) The question of paying dearness allowance to the teachers of Elementary (Aided) Schools in the province with effect from 1-7-44 was considered but found impracticable because of the prohibitive cost involved.

(Continued from Page 15)

must also recognise that their obligations are co-equal with their rights. Workers can also be charged with bad faith and irresponsibility just as employers can be.

G: From my experience both as a trade union leader and Labour Minister, I must say that there is a good deal that employers and workers' organisations must learn: workers must be assured of their fundamental rights and must be guaranteed living wages, good housing and social insurance and social security. The workers must be made to feel that they are not merely wage earners, but are citizens who have a duty towards the community. At the same time, I have no hesitation in saying that there is need for greater discipline in the ranks of workers and trade unions. If both the partners in industry can recognise their respective rights, duties and privileges, much of the troubles that we experience in the industrial world will disappear. Every one must realise that the world is progressing towards a socialistic order of society and nobody need regret it.

(By kind courtesy of the A.I.R., Madras).

SCHEME FOR THE INDEPENDENT FUNCTIONING OF THE JUDICIARY

MADRAS COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION.

The report of the Committee appointed by the Government of Madras to examine the question of the separation of the Judiciary and the Executive has been published.

The Committee have recommended that the office of the District Magistrate should be separated from that of Collector and that the two offices should be held by two different persons independent of each other. The following is the summary of the recommendations:

Our recommendations have been made within the frame-work of the Criminal Procedure Code as it now stands.

A revision of the Code, which applies to All-India cannot now be undertaken. It is possible that small amendments may be made by the Provincial Legislature without much difficulty. But even this will involve delay. The Governor-General's assent is required for amendment of the Code under Section 107 (2) of the Government of India Act, 1935. We have, therefore, preferred to proceed on the basis of the existing Code. This course has one further advantage, viz., that amendments to the Code, when its revision is taken up, will be based on proved experience of the working of the scheme of separation here, and possibly in other Provinces.

Magistrates for Judicial Work

(a) For doing purely judicial work, there should be a hierarchy of salaried Magistrates, consisting of (i) District Magistrates, (ii) Sub-Divisional Magistrates, and (iii) Sub-Magistrates.

(b) The above hierarchy should be assisted and supplemented by the following honorary agencies: (i) Special Magistrates, sitting singly, (ii) Benches of Magistrates constituted under the Criminal Procedure Code, and (iii) Panchayat Courts constituted and empowered under Madras Act II of 1920, amending the Madras Village Courts Act (Madras Act I of 1889).

(c) For attending to non-judicial work, including that relating to the preservation of peace and tranquillity and the prevention of of the commission of offences in the districts, the following in the hierarchy of Revenue Officers should also be Magistrates: (i) District Collector, (ii) Revenue Divisional Officers, (iii) Tahsildars, and (iv) Deputy Tahsildars.

(d) The District Collector should *ex officio* be Additional District Magistrate, Revenue Divisional Officers, First Class Magistrates, and Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars Second Class Magistrates.

(e) Provisions in the Code and in other Acts, which vest powers of an administrative character in the "District Magistrate" should continue to be exercised by the District Collector.

The two sets of Magistrates, namely, the Judicial Magistrates and the Executive Magistrates, should be kept within their respective spheres by executive orders issued by Government.

District Collector's Powers

(a) The District Collector *cum* Additional District Magistrate should continue to be the head of the Police as at present.

(b) The District Collector and the other Executive Magistrates should continue to possess and exercise all the magisterial powers referred to in Chapters VIII to XII of the Code regarding arrest, detention, and the taking of interim security. So too, the Police should continue to possess and exercise all their existing powers, preventive and other, under the Code.

(c) In particular, the Executive Magistrates should, (i) exercise the powers conferred by Section 144, and (ii) deal with unlawful assemblies under Chapter IX:

Provided that in the absence of the Executive Magistrate, the Judicial Magistrate may be moved by the Police in regard to (i) and (ii) above; but as soon as the Executive Magistrate arrives and takes charge the Judicial Magistrate should relinquish all further action to him, and it will be open to the Executive Magistrate to maintain, supplement, modify or cancel any order passed, or action taken, by the Judicial Magistrate.

(d) In respect of—(i) Chapter VIII—Security for keeping the peace and good behaviour —(except Section 106, which provides for the

taking of security from persons convicted of certain offences involving a breach of the peace, a power which can only be exercised by the Judicial Magistrate); (ii) Chapter X —Public Nuisances, and (iii) Chapter XII —Disputes as to immovable property, all preliminary action should be taken by the Executive Magistrate; but the inquiry or trial should be conducted by the Judicial Magistrate.

Generally speaking, it will be for the Judicial Magistrate to examine witnesses and write "judgments", and any *final* order restricting the rights or liberties of individuals should be passed by him.

Sub-Magistrates

(1) The Sub-Magistrate will generally be in charge of a taluk; but where local conditions so require, more than one Sub-Magistrate may be appointed for a taluk or the Sub-Magistrate may be given jurisdiction over an area larger than a taluk.

(2) Sub-divisional Magistrates should have jurisdiction over a group of taluks formed into a sub-division. Sub-divisions need not be the same as at present, nor need they coincide with the revenue divisions.

(3) (a) The District Magistrate should be in charge of the headquarters sub-division and try original cases and hear appeals arising from it; and there will be no separate Sub-divisional Magistrate for this sub-division.

(b) The District Magistrate will have power to transfer to his own file and try any case or appeal arising in the district; he is expected to exercise this power in respect of any case or appeal of special difficulty or importance.

(1) The salary of a Sub-Magistrate should be Rs. 150—25/—250.

(2) The salary of a Sub-divisional Magistrate should be Rs. 250—50/2—700 with an efficiency bar at Rs. 500.

(3) The salary of a District Magistrate should be Rs. 800—100/2—1,000.

Recruitment of Qualified Men

(1) The appointment of fully qualified men as Magistrates is necessary for deriving the fullest benefit from the scheme of an independent criminal judiciary proposed in the report, and recruitment should be confined to persons qualified by their legal equipment and training to discharge the duties of Magistrates.

(2) The suitability of existing incumbents should be examined carefully in each case, the claims of those who are not graduates being investigated with special care.

(3) Direct recruitment from the Bar (which will include Assistant Public Prosecutors and Assistant Crown Prosecutors) should be made, without injustice to existing incumbents who are found capable.

(4) Except for existing incumbents, no person should be appointed as a Magistrate who has not had legal training or does not possess legal qualification.

No person should, at one and the same time, exercise both civil jurisdiction as a District Munsiff and criminal jurisdiction as a Magistrate. But capable Magistrates should be posted as District Munsiffs, and likewise capable District Munsiffs should be posted as Magistrates, so that they may receive training in both civil and criminal work and become well equipped to discharge their duties, when they are promoted as Subordinate Judges *cum* Assistant Sessions Jcdges or as District and Sessions Judges.

Panchayat Courts

(1) In villages, Panchayat Courts should weherever possible, replace Village Headmen's Courts.

(2) The jurisdiction of Panchayat Courts may be extended.

Bench Magistrates

(1) (a) Honorary Bench Magistrates should continue only where suitable persons are available. The Bench Magistrates should not be invested with first-class powers.

(b) The President of the Bench should be a qualified person, and all should be men of position and character.

(2) Honorary Special Magistrates should be selected from retired gazetted officers, preferably those with legal qualifications or judicial experience. They may be invested with first-class powers.

(3) For selection to the honorary magistracy of either category, recommendations for careful selection are made in the Report. Where suitable men are not available for either category of magistrates, stipendiary magistrates should be appointed.

(4) Adequate staff for both these categories of courts should be provided; and they should not be made to depend on precarious loans of staff from other establishments.

Before this scheme is brought into force the Government should make all preliminary reorganisation. Selection for new magisterial

appointments is best left to a Committee consisting mainly of Judges of the High Court.

The Government should issue executive instructions to implement our proposals, particularly those in respect of the allocation of functions between Executive and Judicial Magistrates.

(The Committee was presided over by Mr. K. Rajah Aiyar, Advocate-General, and Messrs. T. R. Venkatrama Sastri, V. L. Ethiraj, Pappu Somasundaram and P. V. Balakrishna Aiyar were the other members.)

Law Minister's Proposals

After examining various schemes put forward before them, the Committee came to the conclusion that the scheme suggested by the Law Minister would be more in accord with the needs of our Province. The Law Minister's proposals as given in the report are:

(1) A separate District Magistrate, apart from the District Collector, should discharge the duties and exercise the powers of the District Magistrate. In other words, the office of District Magistrate should be separated from that of Collector; the two offices should be held by two different persons independent of each other. The District Magistrate should not be subordinate to the District Collector but should be directly under the Provincial Government.

(2) Sub-Divisional Magistrates should be in charge of two or three taluks and should dispose of cases of a first-class nature within their jurisdiction, and also hear appeals from the second and third-class magistrates working in their sub-division. They should be subject to the superintendence and control of the District Magistrates appointed as proposed above. They should tour within their jurisdiction and so far as possible, try cases and hear appeals arising from each taluk at its headquarters. The present Revenue Divisional Officers should be relieved of their magisterial work.

(3) Second and third-class magistrates should continue to function as such under the superintendence and control both of the District Magistrate and Sub-Divisional Magistrate. The present second and third-class magistrates should have the option to choose either the Revenue or the Magisterial side. Fresh recruitment for the Magisterial side should be made only from persons qualified in law.

(4) The cadre of magistrates should be distinct from the cadre in the Revenue Department.

(5) District Collectors and Revenue Divisional Officers should retain their present powers under Chapters VIII to XII of the Code, subject to some sort of appeal to the regular criminal courts at a later stage.

Mr. Venkatarama Sastri's Note

Mr. T. R. Venkatarama Sastri, while fully concurring with the recommendations, has added a separate note.

"It is well to recognise," Mr. Sastri states, "that while a separation of the Judiciary from the Executive is involved in our scheme, the real object is the independent functioning of the Judiciary freed of all suspicion of executive influence or control, direct or indirect."

Referring to those who opposed the reform in this country seeking to derive support for their case in the increasing tendency of English legislation to throw judicial or quasi-judicial work on the executive, sometimes even freed from any judicial examination of the validity of the orders passed by them, Mr. Sastri says that that is an irrelevant discussion for their purpose. "We are not concerned" he says, "with the performance of judicial duties by the executive, but with the performance of judicial duties left in the hands of the Judiciary without being subjected to executive interference or control."

"There is really no just ground for any difference of opinion," Mr. Sastri continues, "on this question of judicial freedom from executive control" and refers to the recognition of the principle by generations of eminent statesmen, administrators and judges.

Mr. Sastri proceeds to state that the only important point is the need for due provision for the maintenance of peace and tranquillity and that no scheme of judicial administration designed to secure judicial freedom from executive control should, in any manner or in any degree, hamper the discharge of this essential duty of the Government and adds that it will be found from the report that "we have made adequate provision for the due discharge of this arduous duty." "Powers vested in the District Magistrate by the provisions of the Code and by numerous minor Acts for administrative rather than judicial action", Mr. Sastri says, "are left in the hands of the District Collector in his capacity of Additional District Magistrate."

Referring to the possible absence from the station of the executive authorities when sudden emergencies arise, Mr. Sastri says: "We have suggested that the judiciary should merely assist, but as soon as the executive officer arrives and takes charge, the judiciary is to relinquish all further action into their hands."

WHY VILLAGISM?

By RAFIQ

Scientific Superstition

Superstitions, like all evil customs, die hard. Particularly so the 'scientific' superstitions of our scientific age. One such—and most of its adherents will be shocked to hear it termed a superstition—is the belief that in this our mechanical age—the atomic age, to be more fashionable and up-to-date,—there is no escape for humanity from centralised production in big factories, that human progress is inevitably and inextricably tied on to the wheels of the machine. Every Napoleon has his Waterloo, they declare, and Mahatma Gandhi with his outmoded spinning-wheel philosophy has his Waterloo awaiting him just round the corner. "Mechanize or perish," they cry, and the call 'Back to the village' is condemned as a call to the jungle, an anachronism, an attempt to turn back the clock, an obscurantist inspiration to abandon the immensely fruitful principle of division of labour.

"Indiscriminately Mechanize and Perish"

The first pitfall to be avoided by sincere aspirants to escape from this fallacy is the idea that the Gandhian scheme of village self-sufficiency is identical with the complete exclusion of all machinery from the nation's economy. No, there is no such identity between the two concepts. It is agreed that there should be a proper dovetailing of the two types of industry; only, Gandhiji holds that this division would involve, if guided by the peculiar conditions prevailing in India and the demand of the dignity of man and the peace of the world, the use of cottage industries to achieve self-sufficiency in the primary necessities of life and of heavy industries to do essential jobs far too technical for the human hand. You cannot construct the Howrah Bridge, the Mettur Dam, the Railways and all the rest of them with your bare hands and simple tools, and Gandhiji is certainly sane enough not to turn his face against bridges, irrigation schemes, public utilities and the like. But he would certainly have heavy machinery dispensed with in a good many industries where it is not indispensable, particularly those producing the essentials of every-day life like food and clothing. He wants every village or small group of villages to take up these industries with the aid of what small capital it could command and strive to make itself as far as possible self-sufficient. Instead of completely tabooing centralised industry, he makes a purposeful selection for the achievement of peace and progress.

Once this idea that all machinery is like a red rag to the Gandhian bull is done away with, the superstition gets shorn of a great part of its ridiculousness. The question may now be asked, in what way is the sort of dovetailing advocated by Gandhiji superior to that attempted in Socialist States, it being agreed that the capitalist organisation of industry needs radical overhauling? Cottage industries exist in Soviet Russia, but the emphasis is preponderantly on centralized production and the evils of capitalism are sought to be remedied by stringent over-all Governmental control of the production and distribution of commodities. If the war-weary world, and more particularly our own poverty-ridden India, are brought to choose between the Gandhian way of village self-sufficiency and the Socialist system of totaliterian centralization, what considerations should weigh with them in making the choice?

Economic Centralization Vs. Political Democracy

The first consideration that suggests itself in favour of decentralized village industries is the fact that, in the political sphere, centralization means death to the idea of democracy. A strictly planned system of production and distribution inevitably involves concentration of political power in the hands of the planning authority and regimentation of the entire life of the people so as to be in conformity with the approved pattern. Even when the planning authority is a democratically elected Parliament, the complexity of the enormous planning structure will be beyond the understanding of the common citizen who will leave the job in despair to the specialist and the politician. Initiative and direction will remain in the hands of a progressively narrowing group and there will be a few effective checks on and intelligent understanding of the will of the centralised bureacuracy. Even the show of popular control over planning in democratic countries is dispensed with in Soviet Russia where the Communist Party exercises dictatorial control over both the Government and the ecnomic life of the people. Economic decentralization, on the other hand, would mean decentralization of political power, too, which not only prevents the chances and temptations of corruption at the Centre, but has the additional merits of having more men responsible for the work and welfare of the world and making the average citizen better appreciate what this business of Government is all about. Individual initiative may be stimulated in ways not injurious to society, for small industries allow no scope for the accumulation of capital in a few hands. Every able-bodied person is bound by the law of bread-labour and has to put in enough physical labour to produce his daily bread or its equivalent by application in some occupation like agriculture or weaving or allied pursuits. Such men will form voluntary associations for the regulation of social, political and economic life. This free, integrated, co-operative society can preserve the gains of both political democracy and economic socialism. Complete negation of individual liberty is too high a price to be paid for a promise of economic security, and large-scale industry in economics seems to be the very antithesis of democracy in politics.

Restores Initiative and Self-Respect

There are other social gains too—by no means insignificant or unrelated to the first—that accrue to

humanity from the system of decentralized industries. Handcraft is a subtle but powerful restorative of hope, initiative, self-respect and self-reliance which are all so badly damaged by the rush and hurry of the modern urban civilization and the very mangitude of industrial units. Instead of being a mere insignificant cog in the gigantic productive machine, the artisan works on his own, producing mostly finished goods. Engaged thus in some creative craft, he develops inventive and artistic capacities. This creative power of handicraft is well recognised by psychiatrists, and is, under the name of "occupational therapy", widely used for the cure of mental disease, particularly depressive insanities.

Ineradicable Evils of Factory Labour

Again, dirt, din, unhealthy congestion, and uselessly expensive habits are inevitable concomitants of centralized factory labour. It is doubtful if communism can eliminate every vestige of such depressing conditions that mark capitalist industries. 'For instance', says Acharya Kripalani in his brilliant book *'Politics of Charka'*, 'A worker in coal mines cannot help being cooped underground, cut off from the light of the day, whether he works for a monopolistic capitalist or a monopolistic state. Whether a factory belongs to an individual or a group, the deafening sounds of hammer and anvil cannot be eliminated. Fumes from a chemical factory or oil-well do not change their odour according as the economy is capitalist or communist. Congestion in large cities will be the same under both regimes." The artisan, on the other hand, works in the purer atmosphere of his village home with plenty of sunshine and fresh air. His social life is cleaner and his enjoyments natural and healthy, and, free from the oppressing sense of tyranny, he is also refreshingly free from group jealousy and group hatred.

Technique for Inter-Group Harmony

Another important social gain which is of special significance in the context of the conflict-charged international atmosphère of today, is the fact that self-sufficiency in necessities and limitation of foreign trade to surpluses are sure steps to the establishment of peace among groups and nations. Absolute dependence on others for the primary necessities of one's life has a tremendous demoralizing effect on the dependent group in the event of—even at the prospect of—the slightest disturbances; and demoralization, prevalent or potential, breeds jealousy and hatred, war and destruction, among groups. For the exporting country, such trade-vantage will be a constant temptation for the acquisition of vested interests and political control; the line that divides trade interests from imperialism is remarkably thin. Two misconceptions in this connection have to be corrected. First, it is not correct to say that, with decentralization, the source of all international commerce and exchange of goods will dry up. Ancient and medieval India had valuable commercial relations with almost the whole of the then known world, exporting fine manufactured goods, invariably the products of cottage industries, embodying great value in small bulk, and getting in return gold, silver and precious stones. It is not difficult to conceive of a situation to-day when we could have a number of industries producing a surplus for export, while satisfying the condition of self-sufficiency in necessities. Secondly, it is said that decentralization would bring in its wake a parochial and narrow outlook. Here again, to quote the inimitable words of Acharya Kripalani, "narrowness and fanaticism are not caused so much by the lack of communications and contact as by the lack of the spirit of neighbourly co-operation and good-will. The barriers separating man from man and nation from nation are more psychic and moral than physical. So far as they are based on greed, exploitation and material inequalities, they will be greatly diminished with decentralized industry."

Leisure and the Social Value of Work

Before we turn to the purely economic aspects of the problem, referece must also be made of the dire social consequences of unemployment and compelled leisure that follow the large-scale use of labour-saving devices, even if the material needs of the people could be amply met by means of State-controlled production and distribution. Man needs work, not only as a means to an end but also as an end in itself. Production is to be advocated not merely for the satisfaction of human wants but also for making a living possible for man and the development of his personality. In a society where education is not neglected and the occupational distribution of labour is well-planned—it is precisely such a society that the model village republic is expected to be—leisure is not an important determinant of the development of personality. Provided the work he has to do suits his ability and inclination and is done under sound moral and hygienic physical conditions,—unlike the crushing drudgery that it is in the capitalist economy,—a worker needs only so much leisure as is sufficient to keep him in a fit physical condition and cultivate his capacity for refinement. Work then has an element of play in it, and is by itself part of his cultural education.

The Economics of Villagism

What now are the economic repercussions of decentralization? With the discarding of the highly productive machinery, would not production dwindle considerably, and would not this be a calamity to this country where people live already below the subsistence level? Moreover, would not the scheme raise the cost of necessities far above the reach of the limited means of our people and consequently be just so much of well-intentioned tyranny pushing the poor from the frying pan to the fire?

No Curtailment of Output

The argument about lessened output is inspired by the idea that decentralization is all handicraft. But small-scale industries do not necessarily involve eschewal of all mechanical power. There would have been no escape from big factories if steam power alone could be used to drive industry, but the Charkka and the loom could be worked by power generated and supplied to each village and cottage, and electricity to-day can be transmitted in small regulated units over wide areas. In India, the home of the great rivers, rural electrification schemes can make considerable headway. Every town and village in

Switzerland enjoys power facilities and even watches are often home-produced. Again, in a number of industries, different factor-combinations—different proportions in which labour and capital are combined—are possible, and one combination is as good as the other in the matter of producing a given output. Provided no bottleneck arises in the use of labour, a low capital intensity does not necessarily mean lesser output. We shall later see that in certain circumstances it is also more economic. There is no possibility of such a bottleneck in India for a long time to come considering the vast amount of unemployment and under-employment prevalent in our economy, and besides, it is expected that, as the philosophy of Chårkka permeates society, everyone will devote part at least of his time to some industry. A good deal of production to-day can thus be decentralized without any considerable curtailment of production, and mechanical power could be effectively used without multiplying big factories or creating a class of proletariats.

Inaccurate Costing and False Claims

In the matter of costs, too, several important circumstances are overlooked in the usual computations which therefore over-draw the picture in favour of mill products. Many small-scale industries make a more economic use of raw materials than the corresponding large-scale ones. A large paper mill, to be constantly worked to capacity, requires large forests of bamboo to be grown and kept in good condition throughout the year and cut and carried to the mill straightaway at the proper time. But for the cottage manufacture of paper, the raw materials are rags, disused basketry articles, old paper and such like, in the making of which the bamboo has already been used and accounted for, so that the cost of the mill paper ought in fact to include the value of the intermediary articles which were sacrificed to enable mill-utilization of the bamboo.

Again, many expenses involved in the long-drawn out process of centralized production are put to the account of bodies other than the mills who charge the final selling price. A yard of foreign mill made cloth can sell in India at a lower price than a yard of Khadi partly because the Government of India and other cotton-growing countries bear the cost of maintaining great research centres for the growth of long-staple cotton, a great part of the vast and complicated transport systems which carry cotton across land and sea to the mills in Manchester and back again to the Indian consumer is maintained by public money, provision for the welfare of industrial labour has to be met from public revenues. Such instances can be multiplied. These illustrations apply to Indian mill products too, for Khadi does not require such delicately refind types of cotton and such elaborate transport arrangements, and does not create such vast centres of dirt and squalor, as do the mills.

Further, in a country like India where there is a great scarcity of capital and a greater plenty of labour, the most economic way of using the available resources, that is, the best method of making the limited resources go the longest way, is that which uses a greater proportion of labour to capital. It is a perfectly sound economic maxim that, in any scheme of national planning, the capital intensity—to be more technical, the technological time-preference—should be so arranged as to have no residue of unemployed labour. In India, with her tremendous rate of increase in population, there is a great deal of unemployment and under-employment, and, inspite of our being the eighth of the industrial countries of the world, during the last few decades the proportion of our working population to the total has actually diminished. According to a modest estimate, at least 30 per cent. of our agricultural population, about 100 million people, have to be shifted on to industries in order to relieve the pressure on land, but with all the vast strides we have made so far in industrialization, we have not been able to give work to more than 3 millions. With such vast numbers to be provided for no responsible and disinterested planner would plead for the employment of labour-saving instead of labour-using devices. When capital is scarce and labour abundant, it is pointless—it is positively wasteful—to dump capital on industries which could as well be worked by hand and allow essential industries, where it is indispensable, to go unexploited. Thus, in countries where unemployment is rampant, the value of goods and services foregone on account of the wrong use of capital—not to mention anything about the loss of social values—is really an item in the cost of mill-made articles.

Permanent Increase in Purchasing Power

Finally, the higher cost of cottage-made goods should be considered along with the fact that as employment increases, the purchasing power of the masses increases too. A rising price level is not in itself a bad thing, being a mark of vigorous economic activity. Only, if suffering is to be avoided, the purchasing power of the people should also keep pace with the prices. This is precisely what cottage industries seek to do. There is the additional advantage that, since private profit does not play a decisive role in production and distribution is simultaneous with production, the increase in purchasing power is not the flow that precedes an ebb, and the periodical crises and the consequent wastes, so characteristic of the capitalist economy, are avoided.

'High' and 'Low' Standards of Living

It is the reasonable hope of the advocates of villagism that cottage industries, properly worked and judiciously supplemented by large-scale industries, can raise the standard of living of our masses considerably above the present deplorably low level, and Professor S. N. Agarwal in his "GANDHIAN PLAN" discusses in detail an economic plan for India based on village self-sufficiency. Here again, there are likely to be conflicting interpretations of what high and low standards of living are. If a high standard connotes an indiscriminate multiplication of wants, if every villager should be taught the use of, and supplied with, all the external paraphernalia of western civilization, then undoubtedly the whole scheme of self-sufficiency will fail the test of that ideal. But the protagonists of villagism need not be, and are not, apologetic about confessing that they judge standards more by the quality of the life than by the quantity of material needs satisfied. They firmly assert that beyond a narrowly variable quantity, every pleasure, every indulgence, exacts a price in terms of creative activity.

Printed by E. Sendall at The Associated Printers, Mount Road, Madras

RICE RATION INCREASED BY 2 OZ.

—x—

MAINTENANCE OF 10 OZ. DEPENDS ON PRODUCERS

PRIME MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

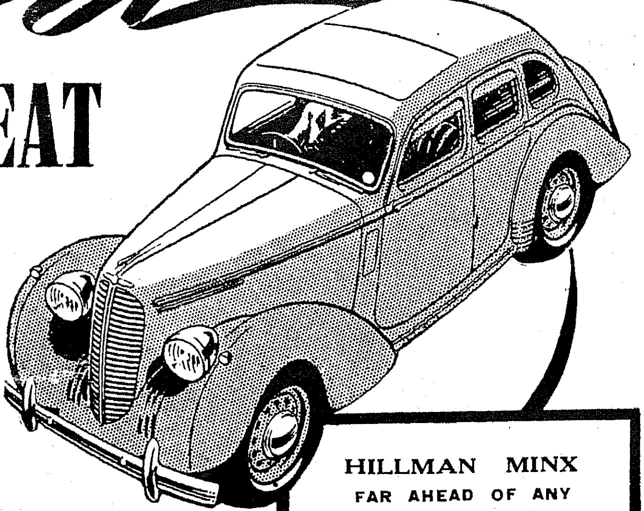
The following statement has been issued by the Prime Minister:—

In my statement dated 11th November 1946, while thanking producers for the splendid co-operation they extended to the Government by selling all their surplus paddy, I indicated that it should be possible to raise the rice ration in December and that I would watch the position and raise the rice content of the ration as soon as possible. A review of the position has accordingly been made now. The procurement of rice has been fairly satisfactory and the lean months are over. The stocks of rice in the Province are expected to last for about six weeks. The main harvests are due in December, January and February and the Government expect that, with the same co-operation which producers have so far extended procurement in these three months also will be fully satisfactory.

Prospects of import are not, however, very bright and only nominal quantities are expected to be received in December and January. There is therefore an element of risk in increasing the rice ration at present; but as the people have put up with the low scale of rice ration for over 4 months now, the Government have decided to take the risk in the hope that the producers will respond as generously as they had done in the past. They have therefore decided that with effect from 15-12-46 the rice content of the ration of rice eaters should be restored to 10 ozs., the balance of 2 ozs. being available in the shape of wheat, wheat products, maize or millets and barley flour. The composition of the ration in respect of mixed diet eaters and millet eaters will remain unchanged. Heavy manual labourers will continue to get 10 oz. of rice and 6 oz. of wheat etc. as at present.

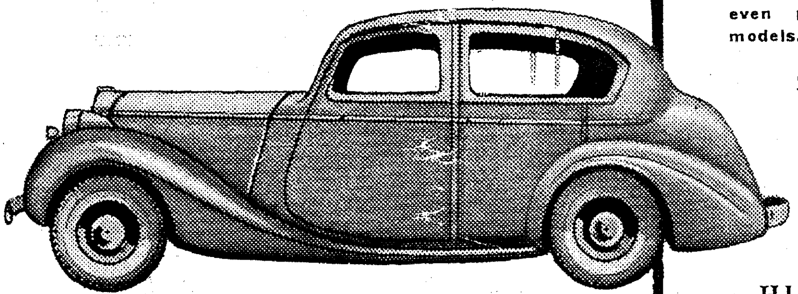
Registered No. 4767.

THREE GREAT CARS --



HILLMAN MINX

FAR AHEAD OF ANY OTHER LIGHT CAR - even previous Minx models.



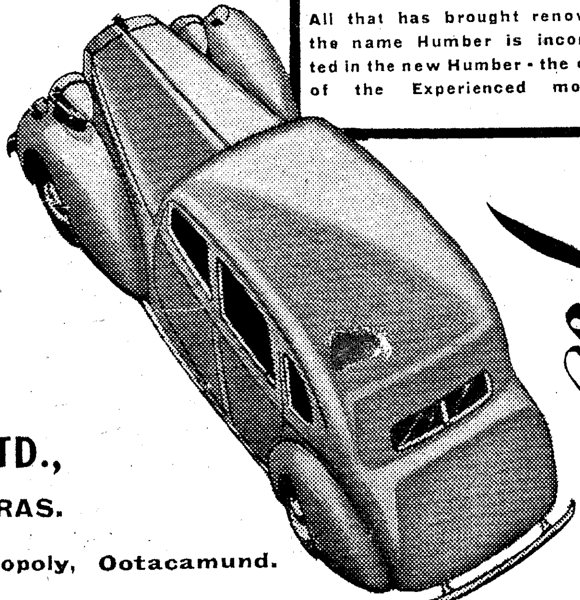
SUNBEAM TALBOT

Britain's most exclusive light car

HUMBER

All that has brought renown to the name Humber is incorporated in the new Humber - the choice of the Experienced motorist.

Three Famous cars of the well-known Rootes Group - embodying the latest improvements from time to time plus the many innovations that have come from six years of wartime experience. Remember also that with these excellent cars you also get the SIMPSON First class service.



SIMPSON & CO., LTD.,

MOUNT ROAD, MADRAS.

Branches: Bangalore, Trichinopoly, Ootacamund.